

TO: All Members of the Council of The John Birch Society
FROM: Marian Probert Welch
Date: July 23, 1985

Because I do not see eye-to-eye with the Management of The John Birch Society, I am giving up all responsibilities, including writing, at these offices, and have resigned as an editor of our publications.

I shall continue to abide by the long range program as outlined by my husband, Robert Welch. With the full knowledge of my enduring obligation to that program, I shall work full time for the principles as outlined in the Blue Book which I helped to put together more than two decades ago.

Marian Probert Welch

It has become apparent to me that the present program of The John Birch Society has departed from its basic principles. And, although I shall continue my Membership in the Society, I can no longer support its present program.

My concern is constantly increased because of the continuing telephone calls and letters I am receiving, some from long-time and staunch members, many of whom I know personally, and others with whom I have had no acquaintance. The messages from all of them is the same: they are disturbed about what they see is happening to the program of the Society and they ask me to do something about it. A good many of these members have already transferred their allegiance to other organizations which have come into existence because of the inspiration given to them by The John Birch Society. These members say they still write letters to Congressmen and others who should have them but they attend the meetings of these newer organizations which they find offer more dynamic inspiration.

Marion Welch

24 Dec 85

Mrs Welch asked me to please include this letter in my packet.

Barbara M.D.

Directors:
Robert Moss
Arnaud de Borchgrave
John Rees



Mid-Atlantic Research Associates, Inc.

July 10, 1985

Following weeks of rumor, I learned today that Scott Stanley and Lee Clark are leaving The Review of the News. I already understood that American Opinion no longer was to be published, and that TROTN would be redesigned as to format and content. In view of the large, loyal following that AO and TROTN have built in the Society, I find it most unfortunate, indeed reprehensible, that news of their demise and of these major staff changes were not mentioned in the July issue of the JBS Bulletin.

Three weeks ago I spoke with Cliff Barker about these matters. It was a friendly discussion; he proposed a meeting to discuss the future of the publications. I very readily agreed, offering to meet him at Belmont, as it always has been my belief that without constructive change there is no improvement, and, over the years Scott and I had discussed a variety of ways to boost circulation. Mainly, let it be said, by improved business methods and some innovative features, such as efficient record keeping! (Aspects of the magazine that had never been under Scott's control.)

I have heard nothing further from Cliff.

At this time there are some facts that are generally not known of which you should be aware.

Throughout my association with you all, and for the cause that we believe in, I always refused speakers fees and my attendance at Council meetings has been at my own expense. Before Larry McDonald's death, my Information Digest and MARA partially subsidized TROTN's activities in Washington. Since the shoot-down of KAL 007, MARA has assumed all of these expenses. They include office space,

secretarial and reporting help to cover press conferences and briefings, the legal cost involved in keeping TROTN out of litigation, WATTS lines and telephone charges, travel, subscriptions, and all the incidental expenses involved in running a news bureau. As some of you know, our phones have been staffed 12-hours a day with readers, staff, Birch Research and others calling for information. (Often our information, with my full agreement, has been used as a money-generating item by Birch Research.)

My accountants estimate these contributions to be some \$3,930 a month - in round figures \$48,000 a year. We made this contribution in the belief that AO and TROTN were effective in the mission conceived by Robert Welch, ably implemented by Scott Stanley and his staff.

During the past ten years I have been well-placed to learn the impact of our magazines. It has been awesome and enormous. The magazines have been responsible for many major conservative victories. More important, perhaps, the magazines were able to stop a number of betrayals, to expose and thwart some "insiders" machinations, and to provide invaluable ammunition to conservatives - the old right, the new right and the neo-conservatives.

The values and ideas of Mr. Welch that were scoffed at in the '50s and 60s found general acceptance in the 70s and 80s. This was due first, because of the soundness of Mr. Welch's thinking, and secondly, because Scott Stanley and his Belmont team put out first rate publications that provoked thought first, then action. Seeds were planted and nurtured, the first fruits of the harvest were gathered but now that it is time to gather in the crop, the harvesting machinery has been dismantled.

Only fools, knaves or our enemies would allow this to happen - and I, for my part, will not associate with those who are betraying what Robert Welch sought to achieve with his publications.

The selection of John McManus, as "interim editor," by Cliff Barker is tragic. Jack is not a professional journalist, he has no magazine or news gathering experience. His bizarre comments in the past were contrary to those expressed by Mr. Welch; and his rigid intolerance towards those whose religious views differ from his, are offensive to Protestants, Jews and mainstream Catholics.

Like you I would like to see TROTN, or its successor flourish; but without an editor of Scott Stanley's calibre, this will not happen. Scott is widely respected, not only in the entire conservative movement, but in the journalistic community. He exercised sound judgement in the two decades that he worked with Mr. Welch, and gave of himself, unstintingly to the periodicals and the Society. Who has not heard Scott speak and listened to the applause? Who, but mean-spirited creatures motivated by envy, hatred or malice would want to remove him from his friends and readers? His summary removal, at this most critical time is unbelievable. No replacement will have Scott's credibility, while some who are being approached (or claim to be) are not only shop-soiled, but sadly flawed failures. In this world you get what you deserve!

As of July 15, I will publicly disassociate myself from TROTN. Any statements that I make will be related to the wisdom of Mr. Welch and how he, Scott Stanley and his staff made AO and TROTN the flagship periodicals for America's intelligent conservatives. Obviously, I will, having received their permissions, add by name, others associated for many years with the magazines who share my views and do not wish to participate in the Barker-created folly.

Please do not think that this letter reflects on you or the leadership that you have exercised in the past. Conditions change, but we must remain loyal to the philosophy of Robert Welch and the man, Scott Stanley, who worked with him on the magazines. Over the years we have enjoyed the battle together; and if I, or my organization can be of assistance to you in the future - just pick up the phone.

Louise joins me in sending our very best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,



John Rees

JR:pc

cc: A. Clifford Barker
Thomas N. Hill

July 16, 1985

To All Members of The COUNCIL.

Subject: John Rees' letter of July 10, 1985, regarding changes in The John Birch Society's magazine publishing operations.

Gentlemen:

By now you probably have received John Rees' vituperative letter dated July 10, 1985, directed to members of the COUNCIL and others.

John's letter was particularly shocking in contrast to the smooth professionalism which has characterized his writing in the past. And the contents of his letter were doubly confounding in light of telephone conversations between us just two or three weeks ago.

As you know, the decisions which are being implemented this summer have not been taken lightly and were in fact considered extensively at several meetings of the Executive Committee and at the June 15 meeting of the COUNCIL in Lakewood, Colorado.

Immediately after the Lakewood meeting, we held lengthy meetings with Marian Welch, Scott Stanley, members of the editorial staff, and all members of the Belmont staff of The John Birch Society. Chuck Armour then presented our decisions to members of our San Marino staff, and the field staff was notified by mail. Except for the editorial group immediately around Scott Stanley, our explanations were greeted with cooperation, understanding, and a desire to do everything possible to make the new magazine a success.

On June 27 I met with Scott Stanley to discuss the matter of his continued employment. This meeting was the direct result of an earlier discussion on May 13 in which Scott had raised the possibility of his resigning. At that time we both agreed to consider the matter and to meet again on June 27, after the close of the July-August issue of American Opinion, to resolve the question. At our June 27 meeting Scott verbally resigned and later that day tendered a brief written resignation.

About this time I received several calls from John Rees who was congratulatory and highly enthusiastic about our plans to combine the best of American Opinion and The Review Of The News into a single weekly magazine. John's suggestions during these phone calls were helpful and constructive. I suggested to him that we talk further in the coming weeks in order to make good use of his knowledge. These rather pleasant conversations made his letter of July 10, 1985, all the more surprising.

To All Members of The COUNCIL.

In retrospect, it appears that John Rees' very cooperative attitude during our phone conversations and his good suggestions regarding the new magazine were aimed at convincing me that he should be its editor. If John did indeed have his sights set on being the editor of our new magazine perhaps the vitriolic tone of his July 10 letter is more understandable.

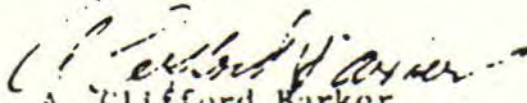
I am particularly disturbed by the insulting remarks contained in John Rees' letter regarding Jack McManus. Soon after Scott's resignation I met at length with Bill Hoar, Jim Graves, and Jim Drummey, key members of the existing editorial staff. Each of them was offered the position of interim editor with a clear shot at becoming managing editor of the new magazine. Each turned the offer down. Jim Drummey's refusal was particularly thoughtful and well reasoned. He produces about fourteen pages of copy for each issue of The Review Of The News and, quite properly, felt that his becoming interim editor of TROIN during the few remaining months of its existence would be far less productive than for him to continue to produce his large input to the magazine. The position of interim editor was then offered to Jack McManus who accepted at my urging. It is the height of nonsense to claim that Jack McManus "is not a professional journalist." His experience and maturity are well known to John Rees and the quality of the issues of The Review Of The News which will reach you during the next few months will bear this out in spades. It is certainly true that Jack McManus has strongly held religious views. Is that bad? His strongly held religious views serve him well as the basis of his standards of morality and integrity as a journalist which I, for one, value greatly.

Finally, the Rees letter contains a clear implication that the values of Robert Welch, Scott Stanley, and John Rees are now arrayed against a force made up of "fools, knaves and our enemies." I wish Mr. Welch were alive to comment on that!

In short, the letter from John Rees reveals a great deal more about its writer than it does about its subject matter.

We now have the team, the talent and the dedication to put out a magazine that will meet the vital need for a national periodical of reach, influence and appeal. One that truly fulfills the objectives envisioned by Robert Welch as a vital part of our total crusade. With your continued support, we can now get on with it!

Sincerely,


A. Clifford Barker
Chairman

Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

July 1, 1985

Mr. A. Clifford Barker
Chairman
The John Birch Society
395 Concord Avenue
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

Dear Mr. Barker:

As you know, I have been employed by The John Birch Society and its magazines for twenty years. Having made it perfectly clear that you have no intention of promoting women to top management positions, and having asked for my resignation during our meeting today on grounds, you said, of my long professional association with the only editor the magazines have had since 1961, you will no doubt be pleased to receive this letter as my formal resignation, to be effective July 12, 1985.

Sincerely,

Elise W. Clark
Production Editor

Mr. Gary Allen
2812 Tigertail Drive
Rossmoor, California 90720

August 19, 1985

Dear Fellow Bircher:

This month would have marked my 20th anniversary as a writer for American Opinion. During this time I have written over 200 articles for the magazine. The total word count is over two million. I never intended to be a journalist. I became one because I was mad as Hell about what was going on in the world. That is why I became first a Bircher and then, by circumstances, a journalist.

My writings have been well-received by Birchers because they knew I was telling the truth and not mincing any words. Well, it's time to tell some more truths. Unfortunately, this is the most unpalatable truth I have ever had to tell. But the fact is that our vehicle to preserve and regain our freedom and liberties has been stolen from us. And, it was an inside job. I am going to tell you things that you don't want to hear; things that will break your heart. But, we can't hide from the truth. If we do, we are simply engaging in the same kind of fantasies as your typical slumbering citizen.

You know by now that AO has been ash-canned. Robert Welch must be spinning in his grave. He created AO as the ideological base and transmission belt for our movement. AO and TROTN are theoretically to be replaced by a hybrid whose name, The New American, is also used by the Social Democrats for their newspaper! An ideological journal and a newsmagazine don't mix very well, but that is not the point. The official line is that the magazines had low circulation and were losing money. This conveniently ignores the fact that Scott Stanley only produced the magazines. He was denied any voice in promotion although he certainly craved to see his creations get the promotion and circulation they deserved. He was promised repeatedly that marketing, subscription renewal policies and the like would be improved. These promises were never honored.

Before we go any further let's get something straight. The official party line from Belmont will be that I wrote this letter because I am angry about Scott being fired. Guilty, but with an explanation. Yes, Scott Stanley is the closest friend I have on this earth. I couldn't love him more if we were genetic brothers.

The only people to whom I feel more loyalty are my family members. The survival of freedom and liberty for my children comes first. That is why this letter had to be written.

You have been told that Scott "resigned." That is about 10% truth and 90% falsehood. Scott was, for all intents and purposes, fired. This is what really happened: Barker told Scott that he had to desist from making speeches to raise money for Kathy McDonald's court defense against the vicious ACLU; that doing so was "competition" with the Society. (Barker has said, "What has Kathy McDonald done for the Society lately?") Scott told him that his conscience would not allow him to throw Larry's widow and babies to the wolves. Barker replied that if this was Scott's attitude, he should resign. The Barker Gang obviously saw Scott with all his creativity as a threat to their reign. They wanted him out, gone. So they created circumstances under which no man of honor could stay on. That is the real story of how Scott "resigned."

There was never a thank you for 25 years of sweat, blood and total dedication. Not a single friend of Scott's (outside his staff and writers) even called to express their appreciation. Unbelievable! Barker then fired Lee Clark, Scott's brilliant associate editor of nearly 20 years.

Scott's loyal staff has left virtually en masse. Gone are associate editors Bill Hoar, Jim Graves and editorial assistant Julie Harding. Gone are key writers John Rees, Alan Stang, Sue Huck, Medford Evans and Gary Allen.

The new editor of The Review Of The News is Jack McManus. Jack is fairly glib orally, but he is no journalist. His assistant has done most of the writing for The Birch Log. There is a big difference between turning out a single-sheet commentary and putting out a weekly newsmagazine.

Part of the knock on Scott was that he used the same tired old authors. Another knock was that TROTN was "new right" and didn't deal with the conspiracy. Now the Belmont position is that there are lots of hungry writers around Washington who will be glad to write for the new magazine. But what do they know about conspiracy?

What is the Barker Gang going to do if subscribers ask for their money back or advertisers cancel their advertising? I'll guarantee you that there are no reserves for this contingency. And they owe the printer \$275,000. What if the printer refuses to keep printing the McManus Review?

the Society. John Rees contends that if this were true, he would be more subtle about it.

What can be done about Barker "The Destroyer?" I don't know. I don't know if anything can be done. That is up to YOU. I only know that, as Burke observed, all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Sincerely.

Gary Allen

GA:jh

The only thing crueller than the way Scott was treated was the absolutely despicable way Mrs. Welch was treated. The Barker Gang's line on this one is that Mrs. Welch retired because of age. Another lie. She was rudely treated and was shoved out. Can you believe that? Call her and ask her about it. You also know what a wonderful, classy woman she is. But, even if she weren't, just the fact that she is Robert Welch's widow entitles her to be treated with the utmost respect and courtesy.

About the lowest, most vulgar stunt I've ever heard of was when Jack McManus slithered into Mrs. Welch's office just two days after Mr. Welch's death to gloat to her that her husband had converted to Feeneyite Catholicism on his deathbed, after having taken instructions in the faith. This is a damnable lie. During the last months of his life he didn't even recognize his wife most of the time. He couldn't take instructions in anything. You may think this stunt is beneath contempt, but I have a lot of contempt for it.

The Feeneyites believe the Pope, whom the KGB tried to assassinate, is a Communist and that all non-Feeneyites are going to Hell. Outside of Tom Hill and Barker, this cult virtually runs Belmont. If the general membership ever found out about Feeneyite control of the Belmont bureaucracy, there would be revolt in the ranks. Newsweek might find that an interesting story.

Incidentally, Mr. Welch paid for the upkeep and maintenance of his home with royalties from The Blue Book and The Politician. Barker has told Mrs. Welch that this policy has been cancelled. Robert Welch put every cent he had into the fight. There is no estate to speak of other than the house. Mrs. Welch, after everything else she has suffered, has been forced to put that house up for sale.

Who is A. Clifford Barker, anyway? Nobody knows this guy. Barker became the head of the Society not because he was chosen, but because he volunteered. The Belmont line is that he took over the Society at great personal sacrifice. Well, he did have to give up his welfare check. You see, he had filed bankruptcy. His board of directors threw him out after his company had gone broke doing government defense contracts. I thought that was impossible. It was after the bankruptcy that Sperry-Rand stepped in and took over the debacle. That is the true story behind Barker's great sacrifice, despite the baloney being peddled from Belmont. Wait 'til the media pick up this story. The truth is that Barker is a consummate liar. What are his motivations? I don't know. Some think he was sent in to deliberately destroy

GARY ALLEN

2812 TIGERTAIL DR.
ROSSMOOR, CALIF. 90720

(213) 430-2282

Dear Bircher:

Let's look at the record of A. Clifford Barker, alias Cliff Wrecker, after two years as head of the John Birch Society.

1. He wiped out the most talented editorial magazine staff in the country. Scott Stanley, Lee Clark Graves, Bill Hoar, and James Graves were forced out. A group of writers, which had taken twenty years to assemble, including myself, Alan Stang, John Rees, Marion Welch, Bill Guidry, Stephen Cole, Dr. Medford Evans, and Dr. Susan Huck, were all alienated.

In the place of American Opinion and Review of the News, Barker launched The New American. The rationale for the ash-canning of the older magazines was that they were losing money. Actually, this was a case of "figures don't lie, but liars figure"! Because the field staff was selling ads in the magazines, their expenses were being charged off against the magazines. In reality, the magazines were not a financial drain; they were the Society's Number One revenue producers. This was the fact despite the case that there was virtually no promotion to stimulate circulation.

The new magazine abandoned the Welch dictum of "If you want it straight . . ." and substituted a watered-down message that generally de-emphasized the existence of the Conspiracy. There's nothing inherently wrong with that approach. Scott Stanley is now doing the same thing with the Conservative Digest and is building a broad base. The difference is that Conservative Digest is doing it well. Robert Welch would be whirling in his grave if he knew that his American Opinion, in which he had great pride, had been turned into something that looked like it had been clobbered together by a high school journalism class. While the magazine has improved considerably since the early issues, the whole situation remains a disaster.

First of all, the money taken in for lifetime subscriptions has been spent and is gone with the wind. No money was set aside as a fulfillment reserve. The money raised from selling long-term advertising has also been spent. The assets are gone and all that remains are the liabilities. Now, the bulk of subscriptions which became renewable in April, May, and June, represented the future survival of the magazine. The results of Wrecker's renewal campaign have been described as an unmitigated disaster. Right in the middle of the renewal campaign, the magazine was changed to a fortnightly with no adjustment in price. People who had subscriptions to Review of the News or American Opinion at \$15 a year (complete with a book bonus) were being asked to renew at \$39 a year (with no bonus). Wrecker is truly a marketing marvel.

Editor Jeffrey St. John, who did not join the Society until his appointment as editor, admittedly does not believe in the existence of the Conspiracy. (How would you like to run that one passed Robert Welch?) St John, who receives \$62,000 a year, is an absentee editor who stays at his home in rural Virginia. He is openly letting people know that he is looking for another job. Now, Managing Editor Jack McManus has been made a scapegoat for the unmitigated disaster of the renewal campaign. He has been fired as Managing Editor, along with his assistant, Bill Fall. The new editor of the magazine will be Gary Benoit, described by those who have worked with him as dedicated and a hard worker, but a total fish out of water when it comes to the monumental job of creating a magazine. It's like asking a businessman to perform brain surgery. Editing a magazine is a task for which you have to be trained.

2. During the reign of Wrecker, Bunker Hunt, Bill Cies, Kenny Volk, and Dr. Tom Parker have all resigned from the Council. They've all given a no vote on the calibre of Barker's leadership.

3. The first to leave the staff after Wrecker took charge was the brilliant attorney, Gary Handy. Handy had served as Robert Welch's personal assistant for fourteen years. Privately, Handy reveals that after only two months he could no longer take Barker's arrogance. Barker, he says, will not listen or take advice from anybody, and is impossible to work with. Handy moved his family to San Diego and started a highly successful law practice. Also involved in the exodus from Belmont was Alan Davidson, who ran the book shipping department, and his wife Joyce, who worked in the accounting department. Next to go was head of accounting Charlie Humphries and his wife Sally, who headed the American Opinion bookstores. In San Marino, Joe Mehrten, head of the Speakers Bureau and the Ad Hoc Committees, was squeezed out. Now, we have the departure of McManus, of Fall, and President Tom Hill, who had worked for the Society for twenty-five years. Hill's departure was not even mentioned in the Bulletin when he "retired"; the fifty-year-old Hill is reported to have retired for health reasons. He was probably sick and tired at what he saw going on under Wrecker. We suspicion that he didn't want to be on the Titanic when it went down, or be blamed as the Herbert Hoover of the Birch Depression.

Who is next? Who is left? We'll bet Chuck Armour is very, very nervous these days. It looks as if Wrecker is systematically wiping out anyone who has any institutional memory of the way Robert Welch ran the John Birch Society.

Management is now a two-man show--Wrecker and Charlie Everett. Everett has great poise and personality (that is pronounced "poison personality"). He has been characterized by Joe Mehrten as the Director of Malignment. Everett is a first-class hater and fanatic. He does not discriminate; he loathes everybody. And virtually everybody that knows him returns the favor. One could hardly pick a more devastating disaster to run a field organization. In another time and another place, Everett would have no trouble being a Nazi or a Communist.

4. The treatment of Mrs. Robert Welch by Wrecker can only be

described as despicable. Not only was the beloved wife of our founder harassed from her job, she has been the target of malicious lies spread that she is senile and that she had constant disagreements with her husband. Mrs. Welch is one of the most magnificent women in the history of our country. She helped her husband write the Blue Book and was his helpmate and confidante throughout his life. Because of the malicious prevarications that Wrecker and Everett are spreading about Mrs. Welch, they ought to be horse-whipped. Even if she were not the magnificent lady that she is, she deserves revered treatment as the widow of our founder. Because of the way in which he has treated Mrs. Welch, you may get the impression that if Wrecker were on fire I wouldn't spit on him. That's not true.

5. The treatment of Cathy McDonald has been no better than that of Mrs. Welch. The A.C.L.U. is suing Cathy McDonald, trying to leave our martyred leader's wife and her small children in poverty. Scott Stanley was given a written ultimatum from Wrecker saying that if he helped raise money for Cathy's defense, he should resign as editor of American Opinion and Review of the News. Being a man of the highest integrity and honor, Scott resigned. For displaying this kind of character, Scott today is maligned by the staff and it is claimed that he is conspiring to destroy the John Birch Society. The truth is exactly the opposite. We have begged Scott to release his ultimatum letter from Wrecker, but Scott has so far refused to do so because he does not want to hurt the Society. Although his concern is certainly for the membership, not the current "leadership."

6. The Birch Society is now out of the publishing and book-selling business. The Belmont warehouse has been closed and the remaining inventory turned over to a fulfillment house. In typical Wrecker Orwellian tactics, this is presented to the membership as another step forward. Can you imagine the Society being out of the publishing and book distribution business? Again, Robert Welch would be spinning like a top in his grave.

7. The field staff of the Society was imploding. For example, on Easter Sunday five coordinators in the Southeast were fired in what has come to be referred to as the Easter Morning Massacre. What a wonderful Easter present! "Hello. Happy Easter! You're fired!" They couldn't wait one more day. It almost seems as if when they let a coordinator go, they do it in the most brutal and callous way possible. The coordinator is notified that "for the good of the Society and the Americanist Movement, your job is terminated." There are no gold watches or testimonial dinners. Remember, these coordinators gave up other careers and made financial sacrifices to take the job as coordinator. This is real dedication. Then, to be terminated in such a cruel manner is unconscionable. This is not an isolated instance. Ask any former coordinator that you know.


Wrecker is following the Potemkin strategy, mixed with a few touches of Orwell. Potemkin, you may recall, was the Tsar's minister who tried to convince the Tsar that everything was wonderful in Russia before the revolution. Potemkin created towns which were nothing more than false-front Hollywood movie sets, gave the local peasants new clothes and paid them to cheer

and wave at the Tsar as he was paraded around the country by train. The Tsar was thereby led to believe that everything was just great.

And, of course, the membership of the John Birch Society wants to believe that this is true. We don't blame them. People who have put years of blood, sweat, tears, and treasure into a movement do not want to face up to the truth that it is being destroyed from the inside. The staff wants to believe because it is their job. They pass on the Belmont line to the members. Anyone who tells the truth about what is really going on is denounced as a destroyer. It is a classic case of "shoot the messenger" because you don't like the message. We're sorry, but the truth is the truth, and with Wrecker in charge never the twain shall meet.

Sad as it is that we need to tell you these facts, it would be a tragedy if we could not save the Society even at this late date. What can be done? Birchers must immediately begin writing and telephoning Belmont, urging that Barker resign in the best interests of the Society. What is needed is a distinguished national leader of proven character and administrative ability. I am told that Governor Meldrim Thomson will be a speaker at the June Council Meeting. Although I have not consulted with him, I believe he has the standing and the leadership capacity to do the job at which A. Clifford Barker has failed.

Regards,


Gary Allen

P.S. GET BARKER out!

GARY ALLEN
2812 TIGERTAIL DR.
ROSSMOOR, CALIF. 90720

December 4, 1985

(213) 430-2282

Dr. Charles Provan
2370 Inglewood Dr.
McKeesport, PA. 15131

Dear Dr. Provan:

I want to congratulate you on your courageous stand and willingness to tell the truth no matter whom it offends. I want to give you my views on three very important JBS bureaucrats: Tom Hill, Chuck Armour, and Charlie Everett.

Larry McDonald, when he was preparing to take over the reins of the Society, talked to nearly one hundred former Coordinators and Major Coordinators. He found their stories incredibly repetitious. Every creative idea which would help build the Birch Society and/or damage the Conspiracy died on Tom Hill's desk. Larry's conclusion, as Kathy McDonald will verify, was that Tom Hill was a plant. There has been a great deal of debate as to whether Tom Hill is a plant--or a vegetable. Actually, it makes little difference. The bottom line is that Tom Hill stifles creativity and activity regardless of what his motives may be.

Robert Welch's Achilles heel was that he surrounded himself with sycophants who would not openly challenge his authority. Hill understood this tendency, and by withholding information and coloring the facts, managed to play Mr. Welch like a Stradivarius. Mrs. Welch says that the one major disagreement she ever had with her husband was over Tom Hill. I once said to former Coordinator Bill Murray that I thought Hill's true calling would be as a bureaucrat in the Social Security Administration. Murray disagreed. He said I over-rated Hill. Tom Hill, he said, should be taking quarters at a toll bridge. Hill has no leadership capacity. He could not inspire thirsty sailors just home from ninety days at sea to go into a bar.

While Larry McDonald concluded Hill was a plant, I have always held to the vegetable thesis. Hill is an introvert who was made, in essence, the national sales manager of a nationwide organization. For this job he was truly a mackerel out of water. In 1963 and 1964, the Society had many creative and aggressive Coordinators and members. Rather than provide training and leadership to keep these people out of trouble, all problems wound up on Tom Hill's desk. Naturally, human beings try to avoid pain. Hill soon discovered, perhaps subconsciously, that by telling people to do little more than read, write letters, and pass out literature, the number of problems arriving at his desk greatly diminished. The result, however, was to smother growth, activity, and morale in the Society.

Chuck Armour is the Western States Governor of the JBS. He is a very articulate spokesman for the positions of the Society. Chuck was an outstanding Coordinator and Major Coordinator. He was made District Governor in the wake of Rex Westerfield having turned San Marino into chaos. Westerfield, a compulsive intriguer, went to Belmont, where he wound up stealing the membership list and going back to Texas to start a political campaign management firm. In the beginning, Armour made heroic attempts to get the show back on the road. He was thwarted at every turn by Tom Hill. Armour found out that his job was all title and no authority. He had only two choices: become subservient to Tom Hill or get out. Feeling he had no other place to go to earn a living, Chuck chose the former.

This job has destroyed a once-great man. He has become a total lackey of the Over The Hill Gang. Chuck has licked Belmont's boots for so long now that it would take him a year to scrub all the shoe polish off his tongue. He has degenerated into a flagrant liar to protect his job. Armour is on a financial treadmill and can't get off. His charming-but-neurotic wife keeps him in perpetual debt. And the Birch Society has no retirement program.

Charlie Everett, now the Society's National Director of Field Activities, is simply a dedicated fanatic. He is a prototype of the stereotype that "Liberals" have of conservative activists. Charlie is a hater. In another day and in another place Charlie would have been a Communist or a Nazi. Much of his hatred is aimed at other conservatives. Everett believes that the Birch Society should have a total monopoly on the conservative movement. To him, all other conservative leaders and organizations are crooks who drain away funds which should go to the Birch Society. As you say in your letter, this is the opposite of the way Robert Welch felt. He advocated alliances with our friends, not vicious battles.

You may have noticed that Larry McDonald is damned with faint praise by these three individuals. Armour even tells people that Larry McDonald would have destroyed the John Birch Society. This is because Hill, Armour, and Everett knew they were targeted for replacement by Larry.

I hope this information will help you and others to clarify the situation in Belmont.

With Great Regards,

Gary
Gary Allen

GARY ALLEN

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Seal Beach, Calif. 90740

(213) 430-2282

Dear Friend,

I believe that future generations of American students will study Adams, Jefferson, and Madison as the Founding Fathers of our country and Robert Welch and Alfred Aaronson as its Saving Fathers.

Please read the enclosures carefully.

I think the plan is absolutely brilliant and could literally save our country. Although just in the nascent and conceptual stage, Mrs. Welch, Scott Stanley, Alan Stang, Joe Mehrten, and Gary Handy agree and are co-operating with the launching of the AMERICAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT to pursue this program. Mr. Aaronson and I will turn his material into "Blue Book II" with a book entitled Say No To The New World Order to serve as a manifesto for the movement.

Several years ago, Jack Harper, a JBS co-ordinator in Michigan, put together a presentation based on the theme, "Stop the New World Order." He put up one billboard and in one month recruited a chapter of 47 new Birchers! He had found the magic formula for recruiting. From ground zero to Americanist in one evening! For 25 years, co-ordinators, section leaders, and chapter leaders have engaged in the arduous task of educating potential members to the point where they were willing to sign on the dotted line. It's like pulling teeth; a tough sale--as you well know. Harper found the magic button--an incredible breakthrough that worked. You would assume that they would be dancing on their desks in Belmont. Fantastic! Here we go! Wrong. Tom Hill ordered the program killed instantly. The JBS, he said, does not deal in slogans. Harper was told he would be fired if he did not cease and desist immediately.

Mrs. Welch tells me that she is sure that Tom Hill withheld Mr. Aaronson's information and communications from her husband. I will not speculate here on what Hill's motives might have been. Draw your own conclusions. Jack Harper is now selling ice machines.

Thursday, January 23rd, Al Aaronson gave his presentation, on which our book is to be based, to Howard Phillips. Howard later told me on the 'phone: "This can be the biggest-selling book in the history of the right wing. It can be bigger than Goldwater's Conscience of a Conservative, Stormer's None Dare Call It Treason, and your None Dare Call It Conspiracy!"

Putting together a new organization to implement this program, and to continue Mr. Welch's educational efforts, is a monumental task. But, as the old Chinese proverb goes, "A Journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." We need your help with that first step.

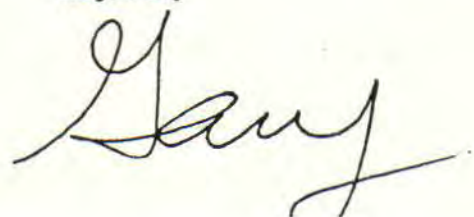
We need financial assistance, advice, and introduction to key people and potential co-operating groups; and your prayers. We promise to squeeze every nickel until the buffalo screams for mercy. No frills, no overhead, no lunches or dinners, no expense accounts, no traveling. But, we do need money for printing, mailing, phone, and secretarial help.

Please contact me by 'phone (213-430-2282) or by mail.

Make your contributions payable to: AMERICAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT, P.O. Box 2686, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

Thank you.

Regards,



GARY ALLEN

P.O. Box 2686
Seal Beach, Calif. 90740

(213) 430-2282

Dear Fellow Americanist:

You are doubtlessly wondering why I am attacking the John Birch Society, an organization I joined in 1964 and for whose magazine I wrote something like 220 articles. Is it a misunderstanding, ego, jealousy, ambition, or am just a plain troublemaker?

I plead innocent to all of the above.

Like Mrs. Welch, Scott Stanley, Gary Handy, Joe Mehrten, Alan Davidson, Alan Stang, and a host of others, we believe the Birch Society has been taken over at the top. I didn't leave the Birch Society; the Birch Society left me. The indictment is contained in the forty-one questions enclosed in the sheets entitled "Questions for Chairman Barker." We are asking you to raise these questions so that you can get the answers and decide for yourself.

It is true that I am involved in starting a new organization, the American Freedom Movement, so that the anti-communist cause will have a genuinely anti-conspiratorial, grass-roots educational movement around which to rally.

My intention is to launch this movement, attract a board of directors made up of top-notch business and ideological experts, and then have the board select and direct a Chief Executive Officer. I will serve on the board of directors--which will be a real board of directors, not a window-dressing advisory group--but I have no desire to be the CEO. My forte is writing books and articles exposing the New World Order Conspiracy and that is what I wish to continue doing.

I fervently hope to have your understanding and support in this gigantic undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Allen



QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN BARKER

1. When publication of American Opinion and the Review of the News was guillotined, their combined circulation was 72,000 (24,000 for AO, 48,000 for TROTN). According to Alan Davidson, who until 2/7/86 was in charge of the Book Department in Belmont, the true current print run of the New American is 50,000. Will you submit audited circulation figures for the magazine?
2. Is it true that the printer has cut off credit on the magazine and will print only on a cash-up-front basis?
3. Is it true that the editor Jeffrey St. John denied on radio station KQV (Pittsburgh) on December 18, 1985 that he is a JBS member and then returned approximately one month later to claim he had joined?
4. Is it true Jeffrey St. John ridicules belief in the Conspiracy?
5. How can JBS have an editor who repudiates Conspiracy?
6. Is it true that American Airlines has cut off credit because of overdue bills and St. John can no longer fly from Virginia to Belmont?
7. Is it true that editor Mark Isaacs quit the New American, saying it was "neutralizing" the members?
8. The first issues of the New American were 72 pages. Currently it is 42 pages. Why?
9. Is it true that many outside writers for the New American have not been paid?
10. Is that why Bill Guidry's movie reviews no longer appear? Is it true he is owed for 8 articles?
11. Is it true that American Opinion and Review of the News were theoretically losing money because the field staff's expenses were charged off against the magazine because they

were selling ads?

12. What is the actual renewal rate for the New American?

13. Does it cost 40 percent more in total to print the New American than it did American Opinion and Review of the News combined?

14. How many renewals come due in March, April, and May?

15. What is the advertising revenue for the New American? What was it for American Opinion and the Review of the News?

16. How much of the money collected in lifetime subscriptions to the New American has been set aside to cover fulfillment for even one year?

17. Why is it John Rees, Alan Stang, Gary Allen, Dr. Susan Huck, Dr. Medford Evans, Hillaire du Berrier, William Guidry, and Steve Cole are not in the New American? These writers have been replaced in the New American by Reuters tear sheets, unknown authors identified only as freelance writers, syndicated columnists, and someone named Kathryn Boggs writing about dogs. How is this different from Human Events, National Review, or the old Conservative Digest? Is the Conspiracy quaking in its red boots, shivering about exposure in Boggs' doggie articles? What happened to Robert Welch's dictum, "If you want it straight"? Bow wow!

18. How many articles have appeared in the New American about the CFR, TLC, the Federal Reserve, or international banking?

19. Does Jeffrey St. John receive \$65,000 as absentee editor? Why pay so much money for a clip, cut, and paste-up job?

20. Is it true that Scott Stanley was coerced into resigning because he refused Cliff Barker's order to stop giving speeches raising funds for Kathie McDonald's defense against the ACLU

21. What has the JBS done to help our martyred leader's widow and children against this vicious attempt to impoverish them?
22. Is it true that this ultimatum was put in writing to Scott Stanley, who could release it at any time and, therefore, in effect has a gun at Cliff Barker's head?
23. Is it true that comptroller Charles Humphreys and Sally Humphreys are bailing out?
24. According to Alan Davidson, Belmont is almost out of Blue Books and cannot afford to reprint them. Is this true or do you plan to abandon even the Blue Book? Is it your plan to phase out even the Blue Book?
25. How many publishers have refused to provide more books because they have not been paid for past deliveries?
26. According to Davidson, there are 12,000 dues-paying members. How many were there two years ago?
27. How many coordinators are now in the field staff? How many were there two years ago?
28. Is it true you are having the coordinators spread the vicious and untrue rumor that Mrs. Welch is senile when you know it is an absolute lie?
29. Is it true that when Larry McDonald was going to take over the John Birch Society, he talked at length to nearly a hundred former staff people and got almost the identical story from all of them; to wit that every creative idea that anyone had that would help the Society or hurt the Conspiracy died on Tom Hill's desk?
30. Is it true, therefore, that Larry told numerous people that he had concluded that Tom Hill was not just a vegetable but a plant?

31. Is it true that Larry had announced plans to clean house in Belmont on his return from Korea?

32. How much money that was donated to start John Birch University and taken as a tax deduction by the donors was instead feloniously spent for other purposes?

33. If any three creditors get together and put the JBS into Chapter 11, will you continue to draw your salary? How many council members have resigned since you took over? Where are Bill Cies, Dr. Tom Parker, Ken Volk, ~~Jerry~~ Paxton, and Bunker Hunt? Since money is so scarce, why don't you take a 50 percent pay cut? What were the circumstances of your divorce? How much was your expense account last year?

34. Is it true that Mrs. Welch believes you have betrayed her husband's educational program?

35. If the JBS is doing as well as you claim, why hasn't the Left resumed its attacks? Why would the L.A. Times, which hates the Society, write a puff piece glorifying it? Don't try to tell us the L.A. Times has changed. Anyone who sees its editorial page knows better.

36. ~~Where was the John Birch Society and the New American on the day of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty?~~

37. What is the total debt of the John Birch Society?

38. What is Chuck Armour's salary?

39. What is Tom Hill's salary?

40. What is Cliff Barker's salary? Is it \$75,000?

41. Is Cliff Barker willing to take a lie detector test to answer these questions if someone else will pay for it?

(Two chances, slim and none. Want to make book on it?)

Since "Truth Is Our Only Weapon," let's have some of it. No PR, no snow jobs, no evasions, no doubletalk, no Potemkin

cover-up about how great everything is going.

Let's have the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God.

And we want it on the record.

We suggest all council members and council meeting guests tape record Chairman Barker's responses to these questions.

CHARLES A. PROVAN, M.D.

2370 Inglewood Drive

McKeesport, PA 15131

Sept. 10, 1985

A. Clifford Barker
Chairman, The John Birch Society
Belmont, Mass. 02178

Dear Mr. Barker,

I'm certain you have heard of the problem which came up regarding the Abdul Shams speech. A member in one of my Chapters was told by an Afghan friend who lives in Greensburg, Pa. that Abdul was a Communist.

Today, I received the enclosed computer printout from a friend in the Pentagon who has access to this type of information. I am sending it to you just as I received it.

In view of the clouded background of Mr. Shams, I regret that I am forced to cancel Mr. Shams speech in the Greater Pittsburgh area which was scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 1985.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Provan M.D.

Charles A. Provan, M. D.

c/c Mr. Tom Hill
Mr. Charles Everett
Mr. Jack McManus
Mr. Tom Parsley
Mr. Steve Nekolek
Mr. Charles Armour
Mr. Herb Joiner
Mr. William Jasper

ABDUL HALIM SHAMS

Abdul Halim Shams was not only a trusted Communist and a close and trusted aid to president Hafizullah Amin, but most likely also worked for the Soviets at that time. There are many false claims in his biography. Taken together, it is highly likely that currently, when in the US, Abdul Shams still serves his old masters -- the Soviets.

Abdul Halim Shams is from the Nangrahar Province from a family that might have come from Laghman. This might explain his claims concerning Dr. Zahir who was from a prominent Laghman family (see below). He stayed in India until the age of 16-17. While it is not clear about Abdul Halim, his brother (see below) claimed that his close acquaintances with prominent Soviets went back to his childhood days in India, and according to a close confidant of his, attributed his fast climbing career to these contacts. In Kabul, he entered the 10th grade of the Dar-ul Mo'Allamein school -- a boarding school for village boys tried to become religious teachers in the countryside. A former classmate of his describes him as "a liar, boaster, totally untrustworthy, a complete opportunist. He persuaded a younger boys to run away with him to India to become movie stars." He claimed to have unique and excellent contacts there. Eventually, all three ended in jail.

A former classmate of Abdul Halim Shams testifies that he attended the Faculty of Theology in the Kabul University, and never studied neither pharmacy or economics. In his days, the Faculty of Theology was the center of the Soviet covert penetration of the future intellectual elite of Kabul. The Soviets conducted a major intelligence operation generally resembling the penetration of the British elite in Cambridge in the 1930s. Shams did work for the US Winthrop Pharmaceutical company in Kabul in a low clerical position, where he could have picked up the appropriate terminology.

The only Doctor who fits the description of Shams' "uncle" is the late Dr. Abdul Zahir who died in Kabul in 1982-83. According to several family members of Dr. Zahir, including his daughter, Shams is not related to the family whatsoever. Further more, there is no body in their entire known family (including the loosely related extended circles) called Abdul Halim. Dr. Zahir's son-in-law, himself a former senior diplomat, not only has never heard of Shams, but could remember any career pattern even loosely resembling that claimed by Shams. He never travelled with Dr. Zahir on diplomatic missions. (Dr. Zahir was not even the prime minister at the periods claimed by Shams.) Dr. Zahir's son-in-law explains that the titles claimed by Shams -- such as Foreign Representative to Iran -- did not exist in the terminology of the Afghan foreign Ministry at the time. Moreover, Shams was neither the ambassador to nor held any other

diplomatic position in Iran in the periods he claimed to have been there.

Abdul Hakim Shams -- the brother of Abdul Halim Shams -- was never the commander of the Air Force. He did hold a senior position, and was the confidant of the then commander Abdul Qader himself a Khalqi member of the Politburo and a trusted aid of Hafizullah Amin. Abdul Hakim was arrested with Mairwandal during the Parchami purge of the Khalqi during Daud's reign. He was released as a result of a high level intervention (probably Soviet) while Mairwandal was killed in jail. Both Shams brothers have claimed repeatedly that while in the Air Force, Abdul Hakim was a spy for Sibgatullah Mojadedi. High-level resistance sources with intimate knowledge on the intelligence assets of the resistance, including senior commanders in the Mojadedi organization, have repeatedly denied ever hearing from or gaining assistance from Abdul Hakim. Further more, in the 1970s, the Afghan Air Force was renowned for its strong loyalty to the Soviet Union and virtual unpenetrability.

Abdul Halim Shams claimed to have been jailed soon after the Soviet Invasion. In different places he changed his story from being jailed in Pul-i-Charkhi (the more likely place) to the Sederat. However, numerous highly reliable sources in both prisons, including political prisoners and defecting KHAD senior officers working in both prisons denied having seen or heard of Shams. A KHAD colonel, veteran of the Afghan security services even during the King's and Daud's regimes, mentioned that during the King's time Shams was known as a potential Communist but was considered too small to bother with. During Daud's later time, and ofcourse under Taraki, Shams was considered a highly trusted member of the regime beyond reproach. All the resistance commanders asked about the daring raid which ostensibly saved Shams at the last minute before his execution ridiculed the idea. The commanders asked about it included these named by Shams as the commanders of the raid. All of them not only denied ever attempting to raid the prison, let alone penetrate it, but insisted that as much as they would have loved to do it, they were fully aware that such an attack would be a suicide attack doomed to fail. Furthermore, there is not a single member of the Afghan community, except for Shams, who claims to have been rescued by the resistance in such a raid, and even Shams himself does not claim that the raid was conducted only to save him.

A close examination of the true career of Abdul Halim Shams points to his true loyalties. When in the Kabul University, Shams was very active in the Afghan Mullah Party -- the movement for a Greater Pushtunistan. The Mullah Party was founded in the late-1930s by German educated Afghans with strong support by the Nazis as an anti-Soviet front. By 1940, the Party was already fully penetrated and manipulated by the OGPU. During the Great Patriotic War, the Soviets relied on the Mullah as a prime tool

to identify and capture German agents on their way into Central Asia. Therefore, Shams could have joined the Mullah on Soviet orders if he started to work for the KGB when in the university. Alternatively, he could have joined the Mullah because of his genuine strong commitment to a Greater Pushtunistan only to be picked up there by the Soviets. In any case, his activism in the Mullah led him to his membership in the Khalq. Currently, the Mullah Party is a strongly pro-Soviet front extremely active in Pakistan against the Government.

Shams had a meteoric climb during the Taraki and especially the Amin regimes. Former senior officials who have defected since 1980 confirm that Abdul Halim was extremely close to and trusted by Hafizullah Amin. He was sent repeatedly to Moscow on delicate and sensitive missions for Amin. However, a close examination of the Soviet activities related to the topics dealt with by Shams clearly indicate that the Soviets had known much more on the Afghan activities and inner circle deliberations than Shams should have told them. Further more, all of Shams' impressions and recommendations to Amin on his returns from his visits to Moscow followed closely the Soviet line, including the advocating of policy lines which have later turned to be deliberate disinformation. Therefore, these Afghan defectors claim that they believe that throughout his service a close trusted aide to Amin, Shams really worked for the Soviets. During his visits to Moscow, he reported on the developments in Kabul and while in Kabul advocated the Soviet policies. He did visit Moscow 3 times in December 1979, and was probably one of the prime sources on the inner arrangements in the palace and other key government installations in Kabul that enabled the KGB, the GRU SPETSNAZ and the VDV troops to capture them so effectively. The above mentioned senior Afghan officials emphasize that the Soviets would not have allowed the Amin government to send an individual so intimately involved in negotiations with them to the US -- as Shams did in 1979 ostensibly as the head of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce -- if they did not trust him completely.

It seems that when the Soviets decided that they were going to get rid of the Amin regime, they whisked away their trusted agent. Shams had to explain his sudden disappearance just prior to the invasion and the bloody coup of Karmal, and invented the arrest story. However, since Shams was so closely identified with the Khalqi and the Hafizullah Amin regime, there was no way the Soviets could have implanted him in the Karmal Parchami regime. Therefore, Shams was redirected to reappear as a strong advocate of the Greater Pushtunistan issue which currently amounts to the subversion and dismemberment of Pakistan. In view of the growing Soviet emphasis on penetrating Western movements supporting anti-Soviet freedom fighters, it is only natural that the KGB would direct a trusted agent to penetrate such priority organizations. While in the US, Shams is known to have met with several Afghans believed to be cooperating with and working for

the Soviets.

P.S. -- In all his interviews and speeches in the US, Abdul Halim Shams has never denounced, mentioned or even alluded to the large scale atrocities performed by the Amin regime.

Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

617-489-0600

September 19, 1985

Charles A. Provan, M. D.
2370 Inglewood Drive
McKeesport, PA 15131

Founder
ROBERT WELCH
1959-1984

Chairman
A. CLIFFORD BARKER

President
THOMAS N. HILL

The Council
N. E. ADAMSON, JR., M.D.
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A. CLIFFORD BARKER*
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HON. MELIHUN THOMSON, JR.
KENNETH Q. VOLK
J. WAYNE WATSON
MARIAN PROBERT WELCH*
BRUCE A. WILDANKS

*Executive Committee

Dear Dr. Provan:

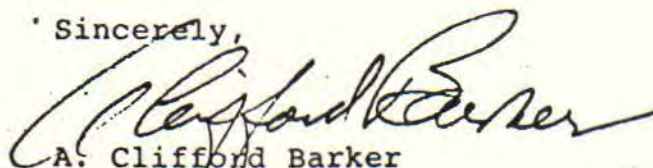
I received your letter dated September 10 together with the four pages of unsigned commentary about Abdul Shams. I appreciate your sending that enclosure and I can assure you that it has received our very careful attention.

Within a matter of a couple of days, we checked with many different sources regarding the charges contained in the report that you forwarded. Our contacts included pharmaceutical companies and former high officials in the Chamber of Commerce of Afghanistan.

As a result of our findings, we have decided to go right ahead with the major tour for Abdul Shams. We can certainly understand why you were concerned upon receiving the report but our investigations have led us to decidedly different conclusions from that report. Separate from the results of our investigations, is the realization that we have rarely sponsored a speaker who delivers such a powerful message. He has moved both our members and their prospects to a far greater understanding of the real nature of the Soviet beasts to whom we have been losing.

We are sorry that you have decided to cancel your speech there for Mr. Shams. I am told that we were able to fill the evening of October 24 with another engagement in Pennsylvania. Again, we appreciate your sending the information and as always I send to you and to your family my very kindest regards.

Sincerely,


A. Clifford Barker
Chairman

ACB:con

CHARLES A. PROVAN, M.D.

2370 Inglewood Drive

McKeesport, PA 15131

Nov. 25, 1985

TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY AND CERTAIN CONCERNED FRIENDS:

Philippians 4th begins, "Whatsoever things are true..."

Browning said, "Truth never hurts the teller."

Lincoln said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true,"

Robert Welch, in the second paragraph of the Blue Book quotes Ralph Waldo Emerson who once said, "Every mind must make it's choice between truth and repose."

I have been a member of the John Birch Society for about 21 years. My wife and I became Life Members in the 1960's. During that decade, we gave our 4 children Life Memberships and in the early seventies, we gifted a good friend with a Life Membership. In 1971, we bought stock in General Birch Services, by taking a 2nd mortgage on our home. While not wealthy, we have tried to help the Society through the years by: membership in the Continuing Support Club since it's inception; through the sale of our one oil painting (giving the proceeds to the JBS); giving the JBS 1/3 of the inheritance I received from my Mother's estate (around Mar. of 1985) In working within the framework of the John Birch Society, I've been actively involved in all of the following: Chapter Leader (1965-1969); Section Leader since 1969; instrumental in setting up the American Opinion Library (1967) in the McKeesport area (a continuous operation except for a several year interim when it was moved to another area); Chairman of JBS Patriot's Dinners in Pittsburgh (from 1975 on); a 16 yr. continuous sponsor of JBS speeches in area (usually 3 per year); a TRIM organizer (responsible for bringing all films and literature to area TRIM meetings 11 months of the year; Chairman of the 12th District (Pa.) Larry McDonald Crusade; not to mention the countless debates, radio and TV shows, Rotary speeches, etc. I'm not mentioning this information to try to overwhelm anyone; I'm merely relating it to underline the fact that I've willingly put my heart and soul into this battle!

My wife and I haven't faltered one iota in our determination and quest to bring this nation back to the God-given Constitutional basics upon which this great Republic was founded. Like many Birchers, we've made sacrifices, but we both feel within our being, exactly as Daniel Webster must have felt when, on July 17, 1850, he said, "I was born an American, I will live an American, and I shall die an American, and I intend to perform the duties incumbent upon me in that character to the end of my career. I mean to do this with absolute disregard of personal consequences... No man can suffer too much, and no man can fall too soon, if he suffer, or if he fall in the defense of the liberties and Constitution of his country."

Let me say at the onset, that the spirit of my letter is meant to be constructive, not destructive, for an organization as set up by the principles of Robert Welch is vital if we are to successfully preserve our freedoms and defeat the Godless, atheistic Conspiracy! Certain things, however,

have happened within the Society during the past year which I find extremely disturbing:

1. JUST WHO IS ABDUL H. SHAMS?

Leading Conservatives have long relied on information from our fine organization because Mr. Robert Welch maintained his credibility. After receiving notification that Abdul Shams would be making an Eastern Speech Tour, I was enthusiastic and immediately scheduled the speech for Pittsburgh, Pa. (as I've done through the past 2 decades). After reading the Shams article by Wm. Jasper (TROTN, July 31, '85), we were especially impressed and my wife made immediate plans to tape her television program with him. Shortly thereafter I received some rather startling information from one of my longtime Chapter Leaders, Don Thomson (412-863-2520). Don told me one of his longtime Chapter members (Jacob Luffy, 412-863-3492) had given the Shams article to an Afganistan friend (Saleh Khairzada 412-837-2300), an investment executive from neighboring Greensburg, Pa. Mr. Khairzada told Jake Luffy that Shams was a communist and that much of the article was NOT true. He said it was impossible for Shams to have done the things he professed in the article. I asked Don to talk with Saleh and also had my wife contact Herb Joiner's California office to pass the information along. My wife spoke with Herb's asst. He told her Shams was a very personable speaker, but he remembered they had a slight problem with Afganistans' and Shams in another area (if memory serves right it was Kansas; Herb's asst. would remember the exact area).

Don Thomson met with Mr. Khairzada for 3 hours and was firmly convinced the gentleman was telling the truth! In my opinion, it's very important to remember that this whole incident came out of nowhere. It was completely unsolicited! I notified the JBS Staff of this incident through calls to Tom Hill, Herb Joiner and his Asst., talks with several Coordinators and others (more than 5 phone calls were made by myself, my wife, and Don Thomson). Mr. Khairzada said he would be pleased to speak with someone about the situation, but he wasn't called until about 10 days later when Bill Jasper called him.

Feeling concerned, I began my own investigation as someone from the N.S.C. had said, "What the h--- are you doing with a KGB agent on the cover of your magazine?" Another contact with high level intelligence sent me the enclosed four page print-out*on Abdul Shams which I sent to Clif Barker and other staff members with the enclosed cover letter.

I received a call from Herb Joiner; he said they were taking this very seriously and were checking it out. I was quite amazed to learn that up to this time, no one had contacted Mr. Khairzada (his phone no. had been given to both Tom Hill and Herb Joiner).

Herb Joiner sent me a letter and a newspaper article relating to one of Mr. Shams speeches in Minnesota. I was amazed at some of the information in the newspaper account. Telling of his capture by the Soviets he said, at 7:10 they pulled out their pistols and took President Amin and myself captive. That night 16,000 members and family of the Amin govt. were executed by the Soviets. I was blindfolded and was being led away for execution. Suddenly, I heard a loud explosion. I went unconscious. My arms and legs hurt. I open-

ed my eyes and said, am I alive or dead? They said, you are free!

This was the story of Shams escape! 16,000 to 1 odds wouldn't be believed by Jimmy the Greek. Also, Shams wife and 7 children escaped. I found the story fascinating. All other govt. officials were executed while he got away when the Freedom Fighters rescued him.

I next received the two enclosed letters from Clif. Barker and Herb Joiner. (1) From the Joiner letter: (see Enc. #2)

- a. "we are completely satisfied as to the integrity of Mr. Shams."
- b. "Abdul was visibly hurt by the report's accusations."
- c. "an Afghan man who was head of the Chamber of Commerce... scoffs at any suggestion that Shams is not solidly anti-Communist."
- d. "The report sent to us contains a good deal of confusion and error." Question? Specifically what confusion and what errors? As Birchers we long ago learned the difference between specifics and generalities.

(2) From the Barker letter: (see Enc. #3)

- a. "unsigned commentary"
- b. "our contacts included pharmaceutical companies and former high officials in the Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan"
- c. "but our investigations have led us to decidedly different conclusions from that report."
- d. "we have decided to go right ahead with the major tour for Abdul Shams."
- e. "we were able to fill the evening of Oct. 24 with another engagement."

After two decades in the John Birch Society, I was shocked at this response! Since when have highly intelligent Birchers (familiar for years with the KGB/subversive apparatus operating within our nation) gone to members of pharmaceutical companies or the Chamber of Commerce for intelligence information? Also, since when has it become a practice to show a person under investigation his intelligence file? That's something we have learned to expect from Inspector Clouseau of the Pink Panther series, but certainly not from fellow Birchers!

Incidentally, after Mr. Khairzada read the 4 pages, he said that the parts he knew about, conformed with his knowledge of Mr. Shams. He also mentioned that in New York City, Mr. Shams had tried to become the leader of an Afghan Mujahadin support group, but they turned him down because of his ownership of a liquor store which is contrary to the Moslem religion. Mr. Shams (following my intelligence report) now admits that the "uncle" in his speech is really not his uncle. The "uncle" was a neighbor and Shams had just called him "uncle." In checking this out with the Moslem*community, I learned that Afghans take their family relationships very seriously and NEVER refer

to friends or neighbors as "uncle!" In Afghanistan, your family represents your social status and is never dealt with lightly!

During all this time, I was repeatedly assured that they would continue with Mr. Sham's tour because he was 'so sincere', 'one of the nicest speakers' with whom they've ever worked! Let me refer you to Mr. Welch's words from page 83 of the Blue Book:

"Incidentally, as I indicated just now in passing, one of the hardest things for the ordinary decent American to realize is that a secret communist looks and acts just like anybody else only more so; and that anybody he, the ordinary decent American happens to know personally, could possibly be a Communist...and he is (the Communist) for all outward purposes..one of the nicest men you ever met. MOST OF THEM ARE!" (Emphasis in the original)

In light of the intelligence evidence that was presented, I believe that a serious error in judgement was made by continuing his speaking tour without a thorough investigation by top intelligence personnel. It is also my opinion that an additional error of judgement was made when Shams was brought into the JBS Council meeting on Nov. 9, 1985 at the Aspen Hotel in Parsippany, N. J. At this same meeting, it was noticeably apparent that leadership was very nervous that some of us would reveal the information about Shams! It was shocking to me when Mr. Joiner stated Shams wanted to meet me! Doubly shocking when Shams looked at me and said, "You are my brother!" (especially shocking when one realizes that members of the Afghan community do not lightly confer 'family' titles upon mere acquaintances!!)

One more item. Imagine my surprise when I was told that same evening that Abdul Shams was going to write the first book in the new series of 'Candles!'

2. Chairman, Clifford Barker

On the next page you will find two items. One is an article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch from 1984. The other is from the June 1985 JBS Bulletin. Note the June Bulletin announcement gave the membership a totally different impression from that given in the newspaper article. Since "Education is our total strategy and truth is our only weapon," my question is this...just where does the truth lie in this instance? (see Enclosure #4).

3. THE NEW AMERICAN*

While The New American is a "nice" weekly...a good publication for the average, non-activist conservative (and a good magazine for a doctor's office, etc.), there is a definite lack of original articles. Those of us who had subscribed to Jeffrey St. John's "U. S. Times" had previously read many of the same articles in his previous publication.

Our publication has lost it's 'cutting edge!' As a hunter, I know the difference between a dull knife and a sharp knife! The fact that Mr. Welch and the John Birch Society dared "Call It Conspiracy" was the cutting edge in our publications. Without that sharp knife of 'Conspiracy', we are 'leveled down' to the same 'effectiveness' as every other conservative group in America!

Please permit me a personal aside. When I accepted this job as Chairman it was with the belief that I could provide leadership to The John Birch Society and run the company I had founded eleven years earlier at the same time. I was mistaken. For running the Society is far more than a full time job in itself! Suffice it to say, what was once Navidyne Corporation is now a division of Sperry and will eventually be completely integrated into their operations. I have moved to Belmont, and my wife and two young daughters will follow me here from Virginia this summer. I mention this only because it is important you un-

derstand that my commitment to our cause is now total in a very literal sense, and that my family has, after much soul searching, fully accepted that commitment.



Richmond Times-Dispatch, Fri., Sept. 14, 1984

B-11

Valentine's firm to buy Navidyne

NORFOLK (AP) — Systems Management American Corp., a designer of computer systems, will take over Navidyne Corp., a financially troubled Newport News firm that makes electronic navigation equipment, the companies said yesterday.

Three private investors who control Navidyne will sell their majority interest to SMA.

Investors in the privately held company ousted founder and president Clifford A. Barker last week and installed Melvin M. Overman as president and chief executive officer.

Overman will continue as Navidyne's president and become an officer in SMA, the firms said.

"This purchase will give Navidyne the financial ability to broadly expand its operation," said Herman E. Valentine, chairman and president of Norfolk-based SMA.

In truth, The New American is devoid of any real mention of Conspiracy! Was Chairman Barker too hasty in his 'dismissal' (resignation) of our brilliant, dedicated, long-time Editor Scott Stanley? A move which cost us the loss of such top conspiracy writers as Gary Allen, Alan Stang, Sue Huck, Jim Graves, Bill Hoar, Elise Clark, Stephen Cole, Medford Evans, and last, but certainly not least, top intelligence source, John Rees! Additionally, the loss of longtime writer, Marian Probert Welch (who resigned because of Chairman Barker's move) and other top calibre writers is devastating when you consider these people were known as our 'first string!' The move could be likened to a 'coup de grace!'

The Aug. '85 Bulletin categorized "American Opinion" basically as a publication of "Gloom and Doom!" The message of the prophets of the Old Testament could undoubtedly be categorized by the same terminology, however, but no one will deny their message was essential, both in God's eyes and the eyes of the wise! Strangely enough, just before reading about the demise of our publications (during the previous week in fact), we had had 5 people call and write, telling us they had just discovered our publications and were thrilled to know such magazines existed (one was a top official for Alcoa in Pgh.). If improvements were to be made in both magazines, surely they could have been done within the framework of the existing magazines. Mr. Welch had set up A. O. as an ideological magazine; he definitely wanted the 'Scoreboard' to be published til our victory over the Conspiracy.

Additionally, if subscriptions to both publications had fallen, wouldn't the fault lie with the fact that neither had any real marketing head to facilitate their promotion? An editor has his hands full putting his magazine together. The burden of promotion and distribution should rightly be the job of someone who is hired to do just that. In getting rid of our top Editor because subscriptions were down, haven't we really 'thrown out the baby with the bath water?' Incidentally, contrary to what you may have heard, Scott Stanley never had any desire in the Society to be anything other than an editor!

What about our loss of "From the Hopper?" Remembering that old adage, "Education without action produces frustration," isn't it obvious that by dropping "From the Hopper", Birchers have been stripped of important legislative information that is very necessary if we are to be effective letter writers in this battle? If the left constantly works on legislation, while we Conservative activists know nothing about current bills, won't the outcome of this battle be obvious?

The loss of: Correction Please (documented and concise); Economics; Let The Buyer Beware ; The Military; Overseas; 'Tis Passing Strange; Films; the weekly rundown on the news; Right Answers, (etc.) all were important ammunition in our battle!

The Pravda Ad. The Pravda Ad was twice published in The New American! The publication of this ad was in direct opposition to the philosophy of Mr. Welch who had an absolute policy of never publishing leftist ads in our publications! While cer-

certain Staff maintained that even Mr. Welch would have approved and it was done for 'scholars' information. It should be mentioned that one of it's listed promoters (Pg. 44, Oct. 7 TNA), Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, is also listed as the top endorser of the Senate Pro-Genocide letter to Pres. Reagan (JBS Bulletin, Pg. 16, Nov. 85)! While we did publish the Communist Manifesto, it is important to remember we did not do so until we had added a preface that gave a full explanation of the evils of Marxism!

WHAT ABOUT A LEGAL TITLE CHECK?

Shouldn't organizers of a new publication do the usual legal title check before using or selecting a title for that new major publication? While I did immediately notify an official of The New American (informing them that their new title was already being used by a publication of the Social Democrats (a Socialist magazine), I never received a reply! Since that time, through inquiring at our local library, I've learned there is a third publication called "The New American...a Russian language publication (80 Grand St., Jersey City, N. J. 07302). A fourth magazine, entitled, "The New American", was also found at the library (Enclosure #5)...a 'leftist' publication dating back to the 1920's! QUESTION? Which patriotic Bircher among us wants our Conservative publication to be confused with magazines on the left? To coin a phrase from years ago, "Isn't it wiser to look before we leap?"

4. THE JBS BULLETINS

In my opinion (compared to the many intelligence gathering reports I receive) the Bulletins are weak (with some exceptions; Nov.'s was an improvement). They seem to be very poor on legislation, are rather shallow (with references to trite things like "Dallas", and leftist magazines like "The Rolling Stones" and "MS"); the Bulletins seem to be embarking on a sorority-fraternity newsletter format, instead of a clear trumpet sound from the ramparts, giving direction and instruction for the battle in which we are engaged (slogans like 'success breeds success' will never replace 'we have not yet begun to fight!' or Scripture like 1 Corinthians 14:8).

Other Examples:

A. Putting "To Free Education" in place of "Aid and Trade" as the number 2 item, while dropping SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE Committees (perhaps new members won't understand the importance of our long-standing SYLP Committees without some education, but certainly all older members recognize it's extreme importance). Also, the loss of Conspiracy from our agenda is very disturbing!

B. Bulletin space is wasted when legislative information is needlessly confusing (plus vital time and effort of our membership). A case in point is the South African legislation described on Page 17 of the Aug., 1985 Bulletin (please refer to Bulletin). It might as well have been written as follows:

"Resolution A and Senate Bill B were combined into House Resolution C. Crane Bills D and E are good bills. Check Roll Call F and Roll Call G for your Senators vote. (Roll Call F was a motion by Senator H. to kill amendment 1 made by Senator L). Now check your Senators vote on Roll Call K in light of their votes on Roll Call F and Roll Call G. If they voted for Roll Call K

TROTN, July (no date given) to see how your Representatives voted on House Resolution C and ask the Representative if they intend to support Crane Bills D and E in light of their vote on House Resolution C." Confusing? You bet!

C. The legislation instructions on "flouridation" (Oct. 85 Bull.) instead of top items like The Genocide Treaty, or the Volkmer McClure discharge petition from Rep. Rodino's Comm. Our legislation should always be aimed at the items of top importance in this fight!

5. THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT DUNHAM'S BAY LODGE, NEW YORK on Oct. 19-20, 1985.

My wife and I were invited to attend this Conference, however she was unable to be there due to her father's death a week or so before the event. The Conference began on Saturday; it ran from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. It concluded on Sunday, running from 8 A.M. til 2 P.M. (I should mention that I have been a Chapter Leader first, then a Section Leader for a total of 21 years and my wife a Chapter Leader for about 17 years). One of my Chapter Leaders and his wife also attended (Don and Carolyn Thomson). Other than the Thomsons, the JBS Staff of 7, and Council Member, Bill Busch, I don't remember having seen any of the other participants. Out of the total 35 to 40 in attendance, most were relatively new members. I assumed this to be the case because of the response given Mr. Chuck Armour's presentation of "Overview." There were even gasps of surprise when the picture of Mr. Welch was shown at age 16 graduating from college. Many there bought stacks of books; it appeared they had never seen the books before. Mr. Armour's presentation was extremely well received.

My observations fell into the following categories. I shall quote, to the best of my recollection, some of the disturbing comments (I ordered tapes of the event but they haven't as yet arrived).

A. Chapters, Chapter Leaders and Coordinators were told:

1. "Keep new members out of old chapters."
2. "We're going to make chapter leaders out of new members and build new chapters around them."
3. "Coordinators will be 'married' to new members."
4. "Coordinators will work aggressively with new chapters"
5. "Don't discuss problems with chapter members. Take your problems to your leaders"
6. "Old members are NOT ALLOWED to ask questions at JBS presentations. ONLY the Coordinator will speak."
7. "Coordinators will NO LONGER be errand boys for chapter members." (I saw graphic evidence of this just 2 days after I returned. Our new Coordinator refused to pick up a consignment of books from our AO Bookstore after my wife (who was really on a hectic schedule) and my daughter (in a wheel-

chair) had worked to price them and get them together for a speech (which the Coordinator was going to attend). The Birchers sponsoring the speech had called several weeks previous to request this service! This was demoralizing to both the sponsor and my wife and daughter.

8. "Be a strong leader. Attempt to challenge everyone. Demand, demand, demand!"

B. ATTACKS ON OTHER ANTI-COMMUNIST INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Singlaub - "money wasted," "He doesn't believe in the Conspiracy theory!" (neither does Jeffrey St. John, KQV Pgh. 9/6/84) The hypocritical use of the General Singlaub interview in The New American (11/11/85) in light of these statements is shameful!
2. Pat Robertson - "He didn't allow Avraham Shifrin to mention the JBS"
3. Jerry Falwell - this was a very forceful attack, accusing Falwell of, "He didn't pay Kathy McDonald the money he raised for her." (rather hypocritical because rumors from certain members of leadership regarding Kathy have been in very poor taste; also, rumors about trying to remove her name from the Larry McDonald Crusade were equally disturbing!)
4. "Don't support #2, just # one!"

ITEM: Mr. Welch on page 106 of the Blue Book, speaking of other anti-communist organizations and individuals - - "They almost certainly are dedicated patriots who deserve our gratitude and our praise. And I not only wish for them and their organization all possible success, but will help in any way I can towards increasing their effectiveness."

C. REGARDING THE MONOLITHIC STRUCTURE OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY:

1. "We must have this monolithic structure SO MANAGEMENT CAN MAKE DECISIONS AND SEND THEM DOWN TO THE NEW MEMBERS!" (See Pages 146-149 of the Blue Book. This is absolutely contrary to Mr. Welch's philosophy! Note Mr. Welch discusses the monolithic structure in order to stop "infiltration, distortion, and disruption" and "Otherwise Communist infiltrators could bog us down in interminable disagreements, schisms, and feuds before we ever became seriously effective."

D. The New American

1. "the finest news magazine in America" (after only 3 issues?)

E. OMISSIONS:

1. Support Your Local Police and Conspiracy.
When I asked Charlie Everett about them he said, "Aren't they in there?" and quickly went to the agenda list. When he saw they weren't there he said, "Ask Clif." I replied, "We have and Clif wrote back, "Your comments regarding the inclusion of SYLP and the Conspiracy are well taken." (end of comment). Charlie Everett said, "Oh."

2. While discussing the availability of reprints, Tom Parsley said, "Why not let the Gary Allen's and the Alan Stangs research out the facts." (No mention of the fact that these men no longer work for us!)
3. From the portion of the program on running a JBS Presentation: "Introduce Robert Welch, John Birch and Clif Barker"
No mention of Larry McDonald. As a matter of fact, the most forceful thing said about Larry was when Charles Everett said, "I wouldn't give a dime to Larry McDonald's campaign! Politicians shouldn't get our money. Let him get his money from the Democratic Party. That's what they're for!" This is one of my pet peeves."
QUESTION? Since when was Larry McDonald a politician? Rep. Larry McDonald was a Statesman of the highest order...a tireless and dedicated patriot who literally gave his life for our Freedoms!

F. MONEY PITCH.

1. Over and over there was an "aggressive" "demand" for extra money. Continuing Support Clubs were overly stressed.
2. "We must get extra money from our members."

G. The Council and the Executive Committee:

1. "They are advisory only"

My Impressions of the New York Leadership Conference:

In my opinion, the main thrust of the JBS Leadership Conference was weighted toward a definite change in direction from that of Mr. Welch.

1. To go around the older experienced members. Question? Who among us hasn't gained much insight from more seasoned members? One of the great things about the JBS has always been the fact that men and women of all ages pitched into the battle (with little or no regard for any difference in either age or experience)
2. Insulate, isolate and educate new members and try to keep them from any association with old members.
3. Make new members "chapter leaders" and build new chapters around them, resulting in the Inexperienced New John Birch Society and the New Bircher.
4. Begin on a hard line of demanding (rather dictatorial), education (or re-education), where older, experienced members will have no input.
5. Get new leads by having members hand out the "Birch Calling Cards" and all leads will be handled exclusively by Coordinators with little or no association with old members.
6. Gradually decrease emphasis on Conspiracy (CFR, Trilateralists, etc.) as is already noticeable in The New American and the Oct.

In my opinion, the isolation and insulation of new members from old members would bring about a situation where 'leftists' could actually become "chapter leaders" in the JBS. I personally believe this could already have happened in Pa.

7. Have older, experienced members lose heart in the battle and just drop out...resulting in a lack of financial contributions and possible economic failure of our organization.

I personally hope and pray that my impressions of the past year are wrong, but to ease my deep concerns about the course our Society is taking, I would like some honest and true answers to the following questions:

1. What are the true facts regarding Mr. Barker, Navidyne and Sperry?
2. Why did Tom Hill and Clifford Barker oppose giving Rep. Larry McDonald any more than a mere "figurehead" status as Chairman of The John Birch Society?
3. Why did Marion Probert Welch resign her position from both A. O. and TROTN with the words, "I shall continue to abide by the long-range program as outlined by my husband, Robert Welch."
4. What were the real reasons behind the resignations' of Wm. H. Cies and Thomas Parker, M. D. from the Council?
5. How could Jeffrey St. John
 - a. on Sept. 6, 1984, talk about "those crazy Birchers" on KQV Pittsburgh then
 - b. join the JBS in Sept. 1985 (See TROTN Sept. 18, 1985 interview)
 - c. continue on his meteoric rise by becoming the Editor of the only magazine of the John Birch Society at the same time (Sept. 1985)?
6. Were Cliff Barker's trips (or trip) behind the Iron Curtain made as a fact-finder, or were they made on behalf of Navidyne Corp. for Aid and Trade purposes?
7. What has happened to our adherence to the principles as set forth by Mr. Welch?
8. Why did top former JBS writers like Gary Allen, John Rees and Elise Clark feel compelled to send the enclosed letters?
9. Why is the Conspiracy being phased out (actually snuffed out in "The New American?"
10. What has happened to our very essential "Support Your Local Police Committee?"

11. Just who is Abdul H. Shams and, most importantly, why wasn't a thorough Security check done on him before sending him on a tour throughout the United States (under the top anti-communist organization in the nation)? For personal security protection alone, we Birchers deserve more intelligent treatment! Additionally, what would happen to our credibility if the liberal news media revealed Shams to be a Communist while on a speaking tour for the JBS? It would amount to a tremendous loss to our credibility!
12. Why was the abrupt 'departure' of American Opinion, The Review of The News, and the 25 year, top Americanist Editor and JBS spokesman, Scott Stanley, handled with such audacity? With a few brief lines, all three were handily dismissed! Many of us have grown up with American Opinion and TROTN; we've been enobled with not only Scott Stanley's words of wisdom, but with his unique powers of oratory which have helped thousands in this battle by providing them with additional inspiration. Who among us was not visibly touched by his speeches at both the Larry McDonald Memorial service and our 25th Anniversary Celebration at Indianapolis?
13. Wouldn't intelligent leadership at the helm recognize that the abrupt 'dismissal' of A.O., TROTN, and Scott Stanley were bound to do irreparable damage to the Society? Since it is a well-known fact that Birchers are 'an army of truth,' and that soldiers in any battle develop a certain 'bonding' in the trenches between other courageous soldiers, isn't it a natural occurrence that a loyalty develops? And speaking of our former editor, wasn't it odd that immediately following the KAL 007 tragedy, he was asked NOT to attend further Council meetings?

Mr. Welch wrote in The Road To Salesmanship: "The first principle is the copybook maxim which might be expected, Tell the truth." On page 23 of this same book he wrote, "a man's success depends so much on the confidence which other men may have in what he tells them." I end this with another quote from dear Mr. Welch. His last sentence of The Politician reads:

"And if this history contains facts that are unpleasant and disturbing to both the reader and myself, that is the fault of those who made the history, not of him who wrote it."

Prayerfully,

Charles A. Provan M.D.

Charles A. Provan, M. D.
(412) 751-8310

Gary North
P. O. Box 7999
Tyler, Texas 75711
December 30, 1985

Cliff Barker
American Opinion
395 Concord
Belmont, MA 01278

Dear Mr. Barker:

I note from Mr. Dunn's enclosure that you are photocopying my previous private letter to you and passing it around. This illustrates the way you run the JBS: private communications become public documents, while public documents (AMERICAN OPINION, REVIEW OF THE NEWS) become private memories.

For some reason, I'm led to write you another letter. It is probably wasted ink. This time I give you permission to pass my letter around. I hope you do.

The JBS is dead. You killed it. Or maybe it was dead anyway, and you are simply the undertaker. Perhaps you can do something in these last few weeks to leave something positive behind. It depends upon your moral character. But the JBS is gone. You will either be remembered as the faceless bureaucrat who killed it (yes, even if Tom Hill is an unindicted co-conspirator), or else the man who at least left something behind for others to use in producing a replacement.

You can, of course, tell a tiny handful of remaining supporters that everything is "jes' fine" at the JBS. "Never better!" That's the feedback I got from a half dozen of my subscribers. I want to call your bluff, Cliff. The game is just about over. The ninth inning is in progress, and you're behind 20 to 2.

When Mrs. Welch's letter hits the members next week, you will find it difficult to raise enough money to pay the light bill, let alone pay for the next issue of THE NEW AMERICAN. Mrs. Welch's letter will finish off whatever remains.

You are apparently trying to play that most popular game among failed bureaucrats, "find the scapegoat." I have become one of them. Well, you won't have Gary North to kick around much longer. You will have to take on Mrs. Welch. Want to try that one? "That Marian Welch, she was never really dedicated to the JBS. No, sir, she was secretly a Commie plant. Furthermore, she owned Chase Manhattan stock. She's acting just like Bill Buckley. She's just a nattering nabob of negativism. Etc., etc." No, Cliff, that one won't play in Peoria. Neither will

the tried and true, "Poor Mrs. Welch; she's senile!" routine. Her letter will allow the JBS to receive a decent burial, and thereby kill off the parasites who are desperately clinging to the cadaver. Your game is just about over.

What the history of the JBS illustrates is that an organization cannot continue to thrive if it loses its original vision, unless it finds an even more powerful vision. But bureaucrats are visionless folks, and they will kill off anything that is weak. At best, they can stabilize a living organism; if it is dying, they will suck it dry. That's what your staff did.

Incredibly, a few of the faithful still hang on, pretending that nothing has changed, pretending that 25 years of effort cannot be overcome in three years by a staff full of certifiable incompetents. But it can happen. It happens all the time. When THE NEW AMERICAN stops arriving for three weeks or a month, the cadaver will at last begin to stink. "Let's pretend" is a game for children. It cannot put money in the bank account forever.

The fact is, the bureaucratic game of "let's do the safe thing," meaning the centrally directed thing, invariably produces bankruptcy. The JBS has not created a new program in years. The Belmont bureaucracy strangled everything. This is why MacDonald was determined to replace you. I think that if he had returned from Korea and had gone ahead with his plans to fire you and Hill and your underlings, the JBS would have survived. At least it would have had a chance to survive. But he never came back.

I have noticed that the JBS under your direction has done nothing to help Kathie MacDonald in her fight against the ACLU. I notice also that THE NEW AMERICAN has not run a single article on the Conspiracy since its inception. I think others have also noticed. That's why it won't survive the winter of '86. Without Otto Scott, THE NEW AMERICAN has now become a threat to anyone who reads it while smoking in bed. If this was your doing, you're suicidal. If it wasn't, you had better override Mr. St. John's editorial decision to drop him and get him back, pronto. Let him edit THE NEW AMERICAN.

Are you promoting Larry Abraham's CALL IT CONSPIRACY? Have you recommended it to American Opinion bookstores? Of course not. No more talk about the Conspiracy in the halls of Belmont! You have silently tossed away 20 years of JBS research and publishing, and have modeled the "new JBS" on some defunct 1957 anti-Communist discussion group. That won't play in Peoria, either. You can fool a few of the long-term supporters some of the time, but you can't fool them forever.

I don't think you can fool them through next April.

When an organization which has called forth years of sacrifice and dedication from its supporters finally goes the way of all flesh, a few of those who poured their lives into it find it impossible psychologically to admit that their institutional dream has been shattered. You can keep their support for a while. But eventually the demise of the organization demonstrates what the critics had said was in fact true. This does precious little good for the critics, who are resented in retrospect even when their predictions prove true, but it doesn't help the clerks who oversaw the organization's demise.

You can always compare your critics with Mr. Welch's former critics, but there are fundamental differences: Mr. Welch had a competent staff beneath him, an army of followers behind him, and Mrs. Welch at his side. What do you have? Tom Hill.

You have lost Gary Allen, Scott Stanley, John Rees, Susan Huck, Bill Hoar, and Alan Stang. Then, just to make the devastation total, you failed to keep Medford Evans. Yet you and your staff pretend that this hasn't gutted the JBS, throat to groin. You lost your entire writing staff, in an organization that was (at the end) probably 80% publishing and 20% discussion group. And you think the world won't know? You think you can drive out your writers of 20 years and still meet the payroll? Hershey would be better able to abandon chocolate.

In short, bureaucrats don't make organizations; they bury organizations.

I have previously kept my real opinions to myself. It is unnecessary for me to hang out the dirty washing of the JBS, especially since the washerwomen who are in charge are about to be exposed as full-time chimney sweeps. Whatever you think my one brief paragraph in REMNANT REVIEW accomplished in swamping your punctured rowboat, please understand that Mrs. Welch's letter dwarfs my puny efforts. I tossed a snowball. Mrs. Welch dropped a 20-megaton bomb.

So do me a favor. Forget about me. I'm not your problem any more. Your problem is an empty bank account that is not going to get filled up with subscription money from THE NEW AMERICAN.

If you are an honorable man, you will swallow your pride, admit your mistakes, and assist Scott Stanley and the other men who built the JBS in their attempt to start something else that might work. If you are a dishonorable man, you will continue to search for scapegoats, jam up the dispersal of the assets (especially the research files), and generally destroy whatever is left of Mr. Welch's work. I hope you are an honorable man. It's one thing to be a man of limited talents who gets called

North to Barker, 12/30/85

4

upon to do more than he can accomplish; it's another thing to destroy the possibility of something new rising from the ashes of the carcass.

Barring your active assistance, just go away. Soon. You don't have much time left anyway. Renewal money for THE NEW AMERICAN won't be there, even if you can somehow make it to next August. Clear out now, while there is still time left to make an orderly transition.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary North". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Gary North".

CHARLES A. PROVAN, M.D.

2370 Inglewood Drive

McKeesport, PA 15131

Feb. 11, 1986

Mr. A. Clifford Barker
Chairman, The John Birch Society
Belmont, Mass. 02178

Dear Mr. Barker,

Your response to my letter of 11/25/85 not only did NOT address the most important concerns of my letter, but only served to heighten my concerns about the direction and purpose of the present top leadership of the Society. I would therefore encourage you to re-read my original letter, Clif. After stating that an answer to my letter would require more time and effort than you could afford, you sent an 8 page letter that definitely did NOT touch on the problems surrounding the Leadership Conference at Dunham's Bay Lodge, N. Y. on Oct. 19-20 and gave less than satisfactory explanations relating to such issues as : Abdul Shams; the shameful treatment of Mrs. Robert Welch; The New American; etc.

During your main speech at the JBS Parsippany, N. J. Dinner. (11/9/85), you twice admonished us. As closely as I can recall, you said, 'Birchers... I have a word of advice for you...don't take yourselves too seriously!' Clif, I do take myself seriously and I take our battle to preserve Western Civilization seriously, therefore, before responding to your letter, rest assured that in spite of your not so subtle implications as to 'what' or 'who' motivated me, my letter was prompted solely by my concern that the J. B. S. has indeed deviated from the principles and purpose of Mr. Robert Welch. My concerns (not 'silly charges' as you inferred) are quite obviously shared by multitudes of other JBS members...including Mrs. Robert Welch, the wife of our Founder! Any attempts to denigrate or belittle my questions are not honest, for I am purposely shining the light on current happenings within the Society to force us to review our present status and diagnose our present problems. Furthermore, because I am a volunteer in this battle for our freedoms, it is a little easier to speak the truth more freely. Much more freely than those whose salaries are dependent on our organization.

By the way, Clif, I did address copies of the mailing to Belmont. I did not send it out for the simple reason that our Major Coordinator, Tom Parsley, was already visiting Chapter Leaders throughout the area with a copy of my letter. Since it was obvious he had obtained it from Belmont, I felt it would be unnecessary to send any additional copies. My original mailing was sent out over a three week period for the simple reason that I didn't want to daily overload my mailman (he's been more than patient with me and my stacks of incoming and outgoing mail all these years as it is).

Quite honestly, Clif, Belmont wasn't at the top of my mailing list for several important reasons:

- (1) Your totally unsatisfactory response to my questions about the authenticity of Abdul Shams.

- (2) The audacious promotion of Abdul Shams at Parsippany on Nov. 9... immediately following the very serious charges stated in a top intelligence report.
- (3) The even more audacious pronouncement that a book by Sham's would be our first in a new Candles series!
- (4) Your rather ho-hum answer to my Chapter Leader wife's questions about the scrapping of our Support Your Local Police Committee and Conspiracy from our list of agenda items!
- (5) The failure of Jack McManus to answer my letter asking whether a legal title check had been done before choosing the name of our new magazine, The New American.
- (6) The fact that no one from Belmont had the courtesy to return our call to Jack McManus's office regarding the Pravda Ads in our Birch publication. (Previously, all our Belmont calls were answered)

LET'S CORRECT SOME MISCONCEPTIONS!

Clif, because many employed by Belmont (including our Major Coordinator, Tom Parsley, and our new Western Pa. Coordinator, Steve Nekořek) are currently setting up appointments throughout our area and other areas, to discredit my questions and concerns (and using your letter to do so), I felt it necessary to correct some of your misconceptions:

In my letter of Nov. 25, 1985, I asked the question:

"What were the real reasons behind the resignations of W. H. Cies and Thomas Parker, M.D. from the COUNCIL?"

Regarding Dr. Parker's resignation, you answered:

Your attempt to use the resignation of Dr. Thomas Parker as a means of throwing doubt on the Society's leadership is particularly cruel. Tom Parker was one of the earliest members of the COUNCIL and is one of the finest, most principled Christian gentlemen I have ever met. His letter of August 12, 1985, offering to resign from the COUNCIL (Attachment "A") speaks for itself.

MISCONCEPTION REGARDING DR. PARKER'S RESIGNATION:

While you correctly state that "Tom Parker...is one of the finest, most principled Christian gentlemen I have ever met," and I say, "Amen" to that, you then enclosed Dr. Parker's letter of resignation which did include some of his reasons for resigning from the Council. While I had previously seen a copy of that letter, in the interest of clearing up this matter, I am taking the liberty of enclosing Dr. Parker's letter to me (see Exhibit I, next page). As you can see from his letter, your inference that I was attempting to use his resignation as a 'cruel' way to throw doubt on the JBS leadership was totally incorrect! His letter also shows you are totally wrong when you say "Mrs. Welch has never been treated rudely or improperly by anyone connected with the John Birch Society and any implication to the contrary is false and malicious."

Regarding W. H. Cies, you answered:

Bill Cies and the leadership of the Society did not see eye to eye on matters for a number of years, long before I became its Chairman. The differences on many fronts continued after Mr. Welch's incapacitation. On two occasions Mr. Cies offered me his resignation from the Executive Committee. In January, 1985, that resignation was accepted. Subsequently, Bill Cies also resigned from the COUNCIL in writing.

MISCONCEPTION REGARDING CIES RESIGNATION:

Clif, you and I both know that in spite of your protestations to the contrary, Mr. Cies's Council resignation was not as cut and dry as you pretend. Mr. Cies is most conscientious and took his Council duties very seriously...speaking out when he felt it necessary. As you well know, sometimes top men of this calibre are not often appreciated for their honesty. After numerous discussions with other concerned individuals, I would say that the word that closest fits the Cies resignation probably could be best categorized as...he was "resigned!"

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Clif, I really object to your accusation that I had written a letter 'under the signature' of my daughter, or that I am engaging in "a gross violation of copyright law", mailing out 'homemade' promotional material! You obviously don't know me, Clif; I have never hesitated to sign my name to any of my letters. After all these years of calling a spade, a spade.. I have NO intention of stopping now! Had you taken the trouble to check out the origin of that letter, you would have learned you were totally wrong. That letter was written by my daughter Diane, in collaboration with Don Thomson, a local Chapter Leader (see Exhibit 2&3 Notarized Affidavits). By the way, my daughter, Diane, is over 21. Although she is in a wheelchair, because of Cerebral Palsy, she (like all of our children) has a definite mind of her own. Diane writes poetry and just last year won the Golden Quill Award for her work. Please note her enclosed poems. I believe they not only show her ability, but also show her deep sense of understanding of the very real problem facing us all. Just one more thing, Clif, I had never even seen the letter until Diane was mailing it out. I told her I didn't agree with the laudatory part about the "New American". After 5 to 10 copies had been sent out, my wife finally read it thoroughly and suggested that Diane cut off all names from the letterhead. Diane sent the rest of the letters out minus the sponsors from the letterhead.

And speaking of truth, Clif...you sat in our livingroom in May of '85, encouraging my daughter to sell MORE subscriptions to TROTN...all the while knowing that magazine changes were being set in motion (in your JBS Bulletin of Aug. '85, you admit these changes had been discussed at two previous Council Meetings...the final meeting making the approved changes was held June 15...only "after more than a year of study and deliberation.") Speaking of honesty, Clif, you knew all along that you weren't being truthful with Diane about your exhortation to promote TROTN sales!

While I'm certain neither Diane nor Don Thomson realized there was any copyright violation and are sorry for the enclosure, isn't it also true that charges cannot be brought unless it can be proved that there has been financial benefit (and of course, there was none)? For the record, Cliff, the published Bulletin picture was originally sent to Richard McKinney by me!

WHAT ABOUT JEFFREY ST. JOHN?

My question from my Nov. 25, 1985 letter read as follows:

"How could Jeffrey St. John

- a. on Sept. 6, 1984, talk about "those crazy Birchers" on KQV Pittsburgh then
- b. join the JBS in Sept. 1985 (see TROTN Sept. 18, 1985 interview)
- c. continue on his meteoric rise by becoming the Editor of the only magazine of the John Birch Society at the same time (Sept. 1985)"

Your answer read:

"I don't know what Jeffrey St. John said about "those crazy Birchers" on September 6, 1984, but, given everything else contained in your letter, I surmise that you have pulled that phrase out of context. Far more important, I have come to know Jeffrey St. John very well during the past six months. He is a man of tremendous character and strongly held principles, and has spent his entire career fighting for those principles in an industry dominated by men who, to say the least, hold views diametrically opposed to his."

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Cliff, undoubtedly Jeffrey St. John has added much to the battle from some of his many commentaries, etc. He IS a Libertarian of strongly held views, but from his comments on KQV radio (Pgh.) alone during this past year on such topics as Joe McCarthy and pornography, he definitely lacks a Birch understanding of the subjects. In addition, he is NOT a 'hands on' Editor, so necessary to our publication; both he and his wife, Kathryn Boggs, an Associate Editor continue to reside in Randolph, Va. His numerous comments were much less than we members have come to expect from our leadership. For further proof, let me quote Mr. St. John from my audio tapes. Lest you accuse me of taking something out of context... this is verbatim:

A. KQV, Pittsburgh (18 Dec. 1985, shortly after 7 P. M.)

(Host) Doug Hoerth: (after perfunctory statements regarding their mutual Libertarian status and the fact that they had worked together years before in Wash., D. C.)

"Now you yourself are not a member of the John Birch Society?"

Jeffrey St. John: "No."

Doug Hoerth: "You're not a member of anything?"

Jeffrey St. John: "Not if I can help it."

THEN....

B. KQV Pittsburgh (6 Jan. 1986, around 8 P.M.)

Host Doug Hoerth: "Where do you, Jeffrey St. John, disagree with the John Birch Society?"

J. St. John: "I don't think I disagree with anything they say."

Doug Hoerth: "Well, O.K., why aren't you a member?"

St. John: "Well, you've been saying that I'm not a member."

Hoerth: "Are you?"

St. John: "Oh, sure."

Hoerth: "I didn't know that. Last time I spoke with you, you were not a member!"

Those two conversations were interesting, Clif, for several reasons:

1. As you well know, members of the JBS don't get too many requests from the secular media for interviews.
2. St. John was invited back for a 2nd KQV interview JUST 3 weeks following his interview of Dec. 18 (in fact, in less than 3 wks.) (which is rather unusual).
3. We know positively that the JBS leadership was made aware of St. John's falsehood; it's therefore a pretty good guess that St. John made a quick call to his old friend Doug Hoerth to put him on quickly for a second interview.
4. The St. John scenario reads as follows: on Sept. 18, 1985, Jeffrey says both he and his wife recently joined the JBS (see The Review of the News, pg. 41); on Dec. 18, 1985, St. John says he's NOT a member; on Jan. 6, 1986, St. John says he is a member! Rather confusing since the motto of the JBS is, Truth is our only weapon, and Education our only strategy.

My assumption that St. John obviously DID request a return performance is born out by the fact that Hoerth used almost identical questions on both programs (his same question on Joe McCarthy was the most noticeable)!

Now note my personal conversation with Doug Hoerth that same night:

Doug Hoerth: "He is apparently (a member of the JBS) and I think it helped him keep the job (Editor of The New American) and the reason he told me, off the air, that he took the job was because nobody else was hiring him."

Now Clif, you state that you "have come to know Jeffrey St. John very well during the past six months. He is a man of tremendous character and strongly held principles.." Personally speaking, this does not sound like a man of tremendous character and strongly held principles... especially in the area of the John Birch Society!

AND MORE TRUTH...

Your answer to my question, JUST WHO IS ABDUL H. SHAMS? is not satisfactory! You state, "Dr. Provan, you are well aware just how much effort went into our follow-up of your letter of Sept. 10, 1985." No, Clif, I am not aware of any intense effort. I AM aware of the fact that you contacted former 'pharmaceutical companies' and 'former officials in the Chamber of Commerce of Afghanistan.' I am also aware that you and your staff lightly dismiss the Sham's Intelligence Print-out as 'unsigned commentary' and 'contains a good deal of confusion and error.' Once again, Clif, what confusion and what errors? Specifically, isn't it true that, after reading the print-out, DIDN'T SHAMS CHANGE HIS STORY ABOUT DR. ABDUL ZAHIR? SHAMS ADMITTED ZAHIR WASN'T HIS UNCLE. Further, since it is a known fact that Moslems from the nation of Afghanistan NEVER refer to friends, neighbors, or mere acquaintances as 'brother', 'uncle', etc. (as in Afghanistan, your family is your social status and taken very seriously) isn't it most interesting that SHAM'S has called myself and others, "BROTHER!"

Herb Joiner's letter stated, "...we are completely satisfied as to the integrity of Mr. Abdul Shams." Doesn't a man's integrity have everything to do with his honesty? Clif, you stated in your letter to me that "I can only conclude that you, or those under whose influence you have fallen, disapprove of what his speaking tours have accomplished in awakening thousands of Americans." Clif, I've never disputed that fact that the man probably can give a stirring speech, but have we really reached the point where the end justifies the means? Let's face it, I'm certain Liz Taylor could give a stirring speech as Joan of Arc, but that wouldn't make her authentic!

AND MORE...ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE/ABDUL SHAMS:

There are 16 Russian soldiers who have defected in Afghanistan. Four of them are in the USA. One of them, Nikolai Movchan, was in Pittsburgh speaking through an interpreter named Ludmilla Thorne on April 25, 1985. One of my Chapter Leaders, Kathryn Murcek, wrote to Ludmilla Thorne when the Abdul Shams situation arose. Kathryn asked her to check out Abdul Shams. Ludmilla Thorne called Kathryn and made the following comments regarding Shams (see Exhibit 4, notarized affidavit). Also, Clif, while speaking in California, it is my understanding you were approached by a Bircher who told you about a former Kabul prosecutor (now living in CA.) who had read the Sham's print-out and said it was 'basically true.' He further said Sham's was under investigation in Kabul. Mr. Barker, when you were told this information you said, "We'll look into that." Did you?

While on the subject, Chuck Armour's statement regarding Shams in Parsippany, N. J., "If Shams is a KGB agent, I hope they send us more ", defies comment! In light of all of the above information, the fact that the John Birch Society is continuing their plan to publish the Sham's book as the first in the new Candle's series, is mind-boggling!

WHAT ABOUT A LEGAL TITLE CHECK?

Once again, Clif, you didn't answer my question as to why you didn't do a legal title check before choosing the name, "The New American?" (which, by the way, has always been a term used for new immigrants). You state, "We did in fact do our homework very thoroughly before choosing the title for our new magazine..." If you did, Clif, why did you proceed to

saddle our patriotic magazine with a name currently used by a socialist group (the Social Democrats) and a Russian Language publication (80 Grand St., Jersey City, N. J. 07302)? Why run the risk of confusion in the minds of intelligence organizations? Surely there were other more appropriate titles available.

Clif, you missed the point entirely in your reference to my concern about NAVIDYNE AND SPERRY:

The impression given the membership of the JBS Bulletin for June of 1985 was that you were making a great sacrifice in assuming the Chairmanship of the Society; however, the article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch gave another impression altogether...the fact that you had been ousted from Navidyne indicated that altruism may not have been your only consideration in heading the JBS.

Your answer to my question, "WHY DID TOM HILL AND CLIFFORD BARKER OPPOSE GIVING REP. LARRY MCDONALD ANY MORE THAN A MERE 'FIGUREHEAD' STATUS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY?"...was no real answer at all! You said, "This is sheer nonsense."

LET'S GET OUR FACTS STRAIGHT REGARDING THE MARION PROBERT WELCH RESIGNATION!

In reference to my question, "WHY DID MARION PROBERT WELCH RESIGN HER POSITION FROM BOTH A.O. AND TROTN WITH THE WORDS, "I SHALL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE LONG-RANGE PROGRAM AS OUTLINED BY MY HUSBAND, ROBT. WELCH?"

Clif, while your answer was geared to placate those who have not discussed Mrs. Welch's resignation with her, it does nothing to change the true facts! In fact, Mrs. Welch's response to your answer in this particular section was to the point, "That's incredible!"

1. She was very upset with your statement, "In fact, THOSE WHO KNOW HER WELL ARE AWARE THAT SHE OFTEN DISAGREED QUITE OUTSPOKENLY WITH ITS PRIOR MANAGEMENT, HER OWN HUSBAND." So upset, THAT SHE POINTED IT OUT TO YOU IN A TELEPHONE CONSERVATION (AS YOU ARE WELL-AWARE)!

2. She was also upset enough to call Mr. Tom Parsley, Major Coordinator, to correct untruths in his statements regarding:

- a. His statement that The New American was under the Robert Welch Estate.
- b. That Mr. Welch had sold the copyright to The Blue Book and The Politician in 1975 for \$50,000 and it was paid in 1977.
- c. That Mrs. Welch still gets royalties and they are being held in Escrow until the Welch Estate is settled. What settlement? (these a. through c. accounts were told to two top Chapter Leaders in our area)

3. Your description of the facts surrounding the payment of Mr. Welch's hospitalization and subsequent stay in the Winchester Convalescent and Nursing Home make it sound very magnanimous on your part. It is true that the JBS absorbed the cost of Mr. Welch's stay in the Winchester Convalescent and Nursing home, but as you stated, it was only AFTER Mr. Welch's son contacted Tom Hill. It is also true that the JBS paid nothing for Mr. Welch's hospital stay which was well

over a month. The final amount paid toward his nursing home care was under \$40,000. When you consider the fact that Mr. Welch never took a dime in salary from the Society during his 26 year tenure, and when you also consider the fact that (1) there would have been no society without his excellent leadership, and (2) everyone connected in a working capacity with the JBS was actually there because of him, the final figure doesn't sound too exorbitant and rounds out somewhere in the vicinity of about \$1,538 per each of the 26 years spent working on our behalf.

4. Your statement that "Mrs. Welch has never been treated rudely or improperly by anyone connected with the John Birch Society and any implication to the contrary is false and malicious."

Clif, while I will always feel that Jack McManus was a superb Public Relations head for the J. B. S. and I have long had nothing but admiration for his excellent Birch Logs, those who know Mrs. Welch best, KNOW she still hasn't gotten over Jack McManus's remarks to her several days after her husband's death!

5. A further direct insult took place when Mrs. Robert Welch wasn't even consulted regarding the Memorial Service for her husband!

Clif, considering the many years of devoted service given by Mrs. Robert Welch, the dear wife of our Founder and Chairman (she often was found working even on Saturdays)...I would have to honestly conclude that your treatment of her certainly leaves much to be desired in the area of genuine friendship and kindness!

7. "What has happened to our adherence to the principles as set forth by Mr. Welch?" YOU SAY:

"I can only assure you that a strict adherence to the principles set forth by Robert Welch has been the single paramount consideration in determining all of my actions as Chairman. It would appear that, at least in your eyes, I have failed miserably in this. "

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT!

In all honesty, Clif...if you were strictly adhering to the principles set forth by Mr. Robert Welch, you would find people like Mrs. Welch, myself, Gary North and others leading the cheering section. The disappearance of such things as American Opinion magazine, The Review of the News, top Conspiratorial writers like Alan Stang, Gary Allen, etc., a top Editor like Scott Stanley (not to mention our top orator), the wife of our Founder, our Support Your Local Police Committees and Conspiracy from our Agenda...have done much to derail our organization AND Mr. Welch's original intent! Speaking of the Support Your Local Police Committees...in explaining your removal of this most important Committee, you said that 'blank listings' under temporary agenda were added so that reports could STILL be made! While it's true that longtime members would remember to add them, HOW COULD NEW MEMBERS (WHO NEVER HEARD OF THEM) RECOGNIZE THEIR IMPORTANCE? Recent cries for 'Civilian Review Boards' throughout the Nation make these Committees even more important!

I ASKED:

"Why is the Conspiracy being phased out (actually snuffed out in 'The New American'?" You answered:

"It isn't "

Once again, Clif, you haven't answered my question. I have yet to have read any definitive article with documented information on the Conspiracy in The New American (as of the date this response is written); by Conspiracy, I am referring to articles on The Insiders, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateralist Commission or The New World Order. Hopefully, this serious omission will be rectified in the not so distant future. Until then, it is obvious that many others share my concerns about the noticeable 'Conspiracy-New World Order' omissions (enclosed letter by top author, Gary North also expresses this concern). Also, I recently received a call from a young Bircher from a different section of the country who stated his Coordinator recently told them they were to downplay the Conspiracy! Additionally, several weeks ago we tried to order 'Conspiracy' packets and articles from Belmont and we were told none was available...except for the McManus "Insider" book.

AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE,

Clif, it is very upsetting to learn from numerous longtime Birchers that our Major Coordinator, Tom Parsley and others are engaging in some very serious and false 'innuendo' concerning numerous people:

1. Scott Stanley. He's been 'tagged': 'hard to get along with'...

If that were the case why didn't all those writers' like Alan Stang, Gary Allen, Sue Huck, John Rees, etc. just say, "Good riddance" when he left and continue to work for Belmont?

Scott has also been tagged, 'a recluse!'

To this charge, Mrs. Welch said, "Nonsense! Scott has always had lots of friends!"

It has also been insinuated that there is NO JOHN BRENNAN... that Scott Stanley has written under that pseudonym in American Opinion all these years presumably for the extra money! In his Dec. 20, 1985 letter to me, Richmond Weathers, Jr., JBS Natl. Representative further confirmed this implication when he wrote "John Rees, John Brennan-Scott Stanley and others."

JUST FOR THE RECORD, CLIF, John Brennan DOES EXIST! He can be reached by writing to:

Mr. John Brennan
70 Dwinell St.
W. Roxbury, Mass. 02132

ADDITIONAL FALSE INNUENDO HAS BEEN CIRCULATED BY TOM PARSLEY AND OTHERS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

2. Mrs. Robert Welch. Because Mrs. Welch is an older citizen, it has been inferred by tone of voice, that she is no longer capable of discernment! While those aren't the exact words, the definite implication is there!

3. Our daughter, Diane. I've just learned that Tom Parsley (our Major Coordinator) has been going around the area asking another very interesting question relating to our daughter AND to the fact that she is handicapped and in a wheelchair. Bearing in mind, Clif, that your letter accused me of writing the letter that she and Don Thomson wrote, Tom Parsley's subtle question to Birchers obviously carries with it certain implications! Tom quietly states, "Have you ever met Diane Provan?"...

The inference is all TOO obvious, Clif, and I personally feel that Tom Parsley is stooping to an all-time low in his pointed insinuations! Just because a person is handicapped and in a wheelchair DOES NOT mean she/he is lacking in intelligence! Anyone who has ever conversed with Diane knows that she has intelligence, personality, a sharp political sense, and a great sense of humor! She also has a sense of loyalty to those who have befriended her and a great big heart! From a Christian, from a medical, and from a personal viewpoint, my family and I very much resent Tom's insinuations!

4. Gary Allen. It's been inferred that since Gary Allen's illness he just hasn't been doing his own writing!

Gary was very ill for a while and even though he now frequently makes use of the Dialysis machine, you can rest assured that Gary IS DEFINITELY doing his own writing! He has NOT retired from the battle!

REGARDING YOUR REMARKS ABOUT SCOTT STANLEY, FORMER EDITOR OF AMERICAN OPINION AND THE REVIEW OF THE NEWS!

In my opinion (and in the opinion of others), Mrs. Welch would certainly have been in a much better position than anyone else to KNOW THE TRUE FEELINGS of her husband regarding Scott Stanley and his work as Editor of American Opinion and The Review of the News. Mr. Welch's many letters to the former Editor of AO and the ROTN confirm Mr. Welch's confidence in Mr. Stanley. Had Mr. Welch been dissatisfied with Scott, he would have undoubtedly expressed his dissatisfaction with a dismissal slip. Over a twenty-five years period, they undoubtedly had a few differences of opinions, but quite frankly, a quarter of a Century working relationship says something of their loyalty to one another! For the record, a number of years ago when my family and I visited Mr. Welch in his Belmont office, our Founder referred to Scott Stanley as not only the nation's top Editor, but it's top orator as well! His enthusiasm certainly gave every indication of his complete sincerity!

Clif, I challenge you to show proof that Mr. Welch was "concerned" about the inappropriate sarcasm and cynical journalism that was creeping into the American Opinion twenty years ago! There is a plentiful supply of evidence to the contrary regarding Mr. Welch's admiration of our former Editor.

While you were correct in stating that Mr. Stanley did attend our 25th Anniversary Celebration in Indianapolis and two additional Council Meetings, your statement that "All top staff members of the Society were told after the Florida meeting that the Society had to cut back on traveling expenses and could not afford to pay their way to those affairs," indicates you are playing with words! You say 'all top staff members'...

please be specific, Clif! Who, outside of Scott, received a letter? Isn't it true that outside of Mr. Welch, Scott Stanley and Tom Hill were the ONLY ones that always attended Council Meetings. When Jack McManus came on board, he too attended the Council Meetings. Since Scott's letter of 'uninviting him' was curtly written by Jack McManus, isn't it safe to assume he was the only one to receive such a letter? By the way, isn't it also true that the reason Scott had been invited all those years was because Mr. Welch wanted him there to discuss advertisements, contracts, etc. with prospective customers for both JBS magazines! It probably also follows that when you decided to phase both magazines out, you felt there was no need for his services.

In my estimation Clif, you were just too hasty in your dismissal of our longtime Editor, Scott Stanley. Because your audacity also cost us the loss of such great writers as Gary Allen, Alan Stang, Sue Huck, Jim Graves, Bill Hoar, Elise Clark, Stephen Cole, Medford Evans, John Rees, and Marion Welch, it becomes even more mysterious!

I ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

"Why did the top JBS writers like Gary Allen, John Rees and Elise Clark feel compelled to send the enclosed letters?"

YOU ANSWERED:

"We cannot assign motives to others. However, I would venture to guess that to understand the motives of these three people would be to better understand what motivated you to do what you have done."

Your answer is amusing, Clif. On one hand you say, "We cannot assign motives to others", yet in the next statement you proceed to assign my motivation to the above three people! That's incredible! I've always had a mind of my own, Cliff, and as long as the Lord gives me a discerning mind, I'll continue to do so.

While I'm certain Gary Allen, John Rees, and Elise Clark can speak for themselves, I found your attached Memo ("B") (written by you for the personnel folder of Elise W. Clark) very interesting! Your line states, "This will confirm that subject letter contains misstatements of fact regarding my comments to Ms. Clark." And again later, "I told Ms. Clark..." Because of our longtime battle against the fraudulent feminist-promoted so-called Equal Rights Amendment, your use of the 'feminist'-coined term, "Ms." is definitely a real 'turn-off', not only in my family, but in all knowledgeable Birch circles.

THE NEW AMERICAN

Clif, your answer to my question regarding the Pravda ads was as follows:

"An English translation of Pravda selling for 630 dollars a year could hardly be considered dangerous propaganda. The Communists get their propaganda across in far more effective ways in the United States through the disinformation and misinformation which pervades the national news media. You should know that by now. On the other hand, an English translation of the official newspaper of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union could be of great interest to students of the Communist Conspiracy. Therefore an advertisement for this translation in our magazine is hardly a "leftist ad."

Clif, please give that last sentence of yours some additional thought! The fact that Soviet lies and propaganda are written in English surely doesn't transform a Pravda Ad into a 'rightwing' ad? Soviet propaganda (for \$630 dollars a year or \$5 a year) whether in Russian or English is STILL 'leftist! And by the way, the publication of this ad was still in direct opposition to the philosophy of Mr. Welch who had an absolute policy of never publishing leftist ads in our publications! The fact that it WAS a leftist ad was born out by the fact that one of it's listed promoters (Pg. 44, Oct. 7 TNA), Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, was also listed as the top endorser of the Senate Pro-Genocide letter to Pres. Reagan (see JBS Bulletin, Pg. 16, Nov. 85)! As I stated before, while we did publish the Communist Manifesto, it is important to remember we did NOT DO SO until we had added a preface that gave a full explanation of the evils of Marxism. In fact, Clif...if you recall, one of our biggest differences with another publication...was the fact that that publication took advertisements for Socialist books.

Clif, you didn't even mention my most important enclosure...

AND BIGGEST QUESTION OF ALL!!

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT DUNHAM'S BAY LODGE, NEW YORK on Oct. 19-20, 1985.

The most important omission in your letter to me concerned the drastic changes in the JBS structure regarding: new members; the isolation and insulation of old members from new members (confirmed by calls from members throughout the nation since receipt of my letter); the 'new version' of the monolithic structure; and the attacks on other anti-communists and conservative organizations. These items, more than any other, were fundamental to Mr. Welch's philosophy, which once again, prompted Mrs. Welch to write, "It has become apparent to me that the present program of the John Birch Society has departed from it's basic principles."

I urge you to re-read my concerns about the Leadership Conference, Clif, and see if you don't agree with my estimation that we do have a major problem!

My wife and I were invited to attend this Conference, however she was unable to be there due to her father's death a week or so before the event. The Conference began on Saturday; it ran from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. It concluded on Sunday, running from 8 A.M. til 2 P.M. (I should mention that I have been a Chapter Leader first, then a Section Leader for a total of 21 years and my wife a Chapter Leader for about 17 years). One of my Chapter Leaders and his wife also attended (Don and Carolyn Thomson). Other than the Thomsons, the JBS Staff of 7, and Council Member, Bill Busch, I don't remember having seen any of the other participants. Out of the total 35 to 40 in attendance, most were relatively new members. I assumed this to be the case because of the response given Mr. Chuck Armour's presentation of "Overview." There were even gasps of surprise when the picture of Mr. Welch was shown at age 16 graduating from college. Many there bought stacks of books; it appeared they had never seen the books before. Mr. Armour's presentation was extremely well received.

My observations fell into the following categories. I shall quote, to the best of my recollection, some of the disturbing com-

ments (I ordered tapes of the event but they haven't as yet arrived).*

A. Chapters, Chapter Leaders and Coordinators were told:

1. "Keep new members out of old chapters."
2. "We're going to make chapter leaders out of new members and build new chapters around them."
3. "Coordinators will be 'married' to new members."
4. "Coordinators will work aggressively with new chapters"
5. "Don't discuss problems with chapter members. Take your problems to your leaders"
6. "Old members are NOT ALLOWED to ask questions at JBS presentations. ONLY the Coordinator will speak."
7. "Coordinators will NO LONGER be errand boys for chapter members." (I saw graphic evidence of this just 2 days after I returned. Our new Coordinator refused to pick up a consignment of books from our AO Bookstore after my wife (who was really on a hectic schedule) and my daughter (in a wheelchair) had worked to price them and get them together for a speech (which the Coordinator was going to attend). The Birchers sponsoring the speech had called several weeks previous to request this service! This was demoralizing to both the sponsor and my wife and daughter.
8. "Be a strong leader. Attempt to challenge everyone. Demand, demand, demand!"

B. ATTACKS ON OTHER ANTI-COMMUNIST INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Singlaub - "money wasted," "He doesn't believe in the Conspiracy theory!" (neither does Jeffrey St. John, KQV Pgh. 9/6/84) The hypocritical use of the General Singlaub interview in The New American (11/11/85) in light of these statements is shameful!
2. Pat Robertson - "He didn't allow Avraham Shifrin to mention the JBS"
3. Jerry Falwell - this was a very forceful attack, accusing Falwell of, "He didn't pay Kathy McDonald the money he raised for her." (rather hypocritical because rumors from certain members of leadership regarding Kathy have been in very poor taste; also, rumors about trying to remove her name from the Larry McDonald Crusade were equally disturbing!)
4. "Don't support #2, just # one!"

ITEM: Mr. Welch on page 106 of the Blue Book, speaking of other anti-communist organizations and individuals - - "They almost certainly are dedicated patriots who deserve our gratitude and our praise. And I not only wish for them and their organization all possible success, but will help in any way I can towards increasing their effectiveness."

C. REGARDING THE MONOLITHIC STRUCTURE OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY:

1. "We must have this monolithic structure SO MANAGEMENT CAN MAKE DECISIONS AND SEND THEM DOWN TO THE NEW MEMBERS!" (See Pages 146-149 of the Blue Book. This is absolutely contrary to Mr. Welch's philosophy! Note Mr. Welch discusses the monolithic structure in order to stop "infiltration, distortion, and disruption" and "Otherwise Communist infiltrators could bog us down in interminable disagreements, schisms, and feuds before we ever became seriously effective."

D. The New American

1. "the finest news magazine in America" (after only 3 issues?)

E. OMISSIONS:

1. Support Your Local Police and Conspiracy.
When I asked Charlie Everett about them he said, "Aren't they in there?" and quickly went to the agenda list. When he saw they weren't there he said, "Ask Clif." I replied, "We have and Clif wrote back, "Your comments regarding the inclusion of SYLP and the Conspiracy are well taken." (end of comment). Charlie Everett said, "Oh."
2. While discussing the availability of reprints, Tom Parsley said, "Why not let the Gary Allen's and the Alan Stangs research out the facts." (No mention of the fact that these men no longer work for us!)
3. From the portion of the program on running a JBS Presentation: "Introduce Robert Welch, John Birch and Clif Barker" No mention of Larry McDonald. As a matter of fact, the most forceful thing said about Larry was when Charles Everett said, "I wouldn't give a dime to Larry McDonald's campaign! Politicians shouldn't get our money. Let him get his money from the Democratic Party. That's what they're for! This is one of my pet peeves."
QUESTION? Since when was Larry McDonald a politician? Rep. Larry McDonald was a Statesman of the highest order...a tireless and dedicated patriot who literally gave his life for our Freedoms!

F. MONEY PITCH.

1. Over and over there was an "aggressive" "demand" for extra money. Continuing Support Clubs were overly stressed.
2. "We must get extra money from our members."

G. The Council and the Executive Committee:

1. "They are advisory only"

My Impressions of the New York Leadership Conference:

In my opinion, the main thrust of the JBS Leadership Conference was weighted toward a definite change in direction from that of Mr. Welch.

1. To go around the older experienced members. Question? Who

among us hasn't gained much insight from more seasoned members? One of the great things about the JBS has always been the fact that men and women of all ages pitched into the battle (with little or no regard for any difference in either age or experience)

2. Insulate, isolate and educate new members and try to keep them from any association with old members.
3. Make new members "chapter leaders" and build new chapters around them, resulting in the Inexperienced New John Birch Society and the New Bircher.
4. Begin on a hard line of demanding (rather dictatorial), education (or re-education), where older, experienced members will have no input.
5. Get new leads by having members hand out the "Birch Calling Cards" and all leads will be handled exclusively by Coordinators with little or no association with old members.
6. Gradually decrease emphasis on Conspiracy (CFR, Trilateralists, etc.) as is already noticeable in The New American and the Oct. Bulletin.

In my opinion, the isolation and insulation of new members from old members would bring about a situation where 'leftists' could actually become "chapter leaders" in the JBS. I personally believe this could already have happened in Pa.

7. Have older, experienced members lose heart in the battle and just drop out...resulting in a lack of financial contributions and possible economic failure of our organization.

Clif, I mentioned earlier in this letter that both our Major Coordinator, Tom Parsley, and our W. Pa. Coordinator, Steve Nekolek, have been visiting Chapter Leaders and Chapters throughout our area...specifically going over your answers to my letter of Nov. 25, 1985...purposely to debunk my original questions about the Society. Because of this fact, I specifically showed Steve Nekolek my letter from Dr. Parker at our last TRIM meeting of Jan. 28. I did this to show Steve that I was truthful about Dr. Parker's resignation. I told Steve I expected him to inform Birch officials about the letter and to correct Clif's answer when going over his letter with Birchers. At the same time, I told him that Don Thomson had also corrected him concerning the letter he and Diane had collaborated on and that I also expected him to reveal that information when talking to Birch members. It was very disappointing to learn that the VERY next morning, Steve was mailing Clif's letter to Birch members...all the while knowing that the information he was mailing was NOT true (I received a call from a member who noted the Jan. 29 date of mailing). He has also gone over the letter with JBS members since that date...never mentioning the corrections he definitely KNEW about. What happened to our motto... "Truth is our only weapon?"

By the way, Clif, Mr. Tony Frattone still hasn't gotten over his conversation with our current Editor (Jeffrey St. John) at Parsippany when St. John said our "Constitution is not worth the paper it's written on."

Tony's Coordinator told Belmont how unhappy he was over Jeffrey's personal remarks and both you and J. St. John called to apologize. Longtime member and contributor Frattone was so upset over his and St. John's discussion that he has even said he'll be glad to testify to this effect!

Because I feel these serious matters should be pursued further, I have sent a letter under separate cover regarding your invitation to speak to the Executive Council. As I stated in my Jan. 27 letter, I feel it is most important that this meeting take place before the whole Committee, rather than just the Executive Committee. I will look forward to hearing from you, Clif.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Roman N.D.

(412) 751-8310

P.S. * Point of updated information!

After a phone call was made, I finally did receive my Leadership Conference Tapes. After listening to these tapes, Clif, I have a question for you. Why was the attack on other national Anti-Communists and the remark about Larry McDonald deleted from the tapes? Noticeable on the tape (at the exact point of deletion), is Charlie Everett's voice saying: "Can you turn it off?" (in a whisper).

EXHIBIT 1

THOMAS PARKER, M.D.
123 SUMNER STREET
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29601

December 2, 1985

Charles A. Provan, M.D.
2370 Inglewood Dr.
McKeesport, PA 15131

Dear Dr. Provan:

Thank you for your letter with enclosures. It is obvious that you have looked into this matter much more closely than I have and are much better informed.

I resigned from the Council on August 12, 1985 because I did not like the way that Cliff Barker had treated Mrs. Welch and Scott Stanley and the staff, which in all fairness I thought was outrageous.

As usual there are some other reasons. I will be 76 December 3rd. The first of August I ruptured a chorda tendinane on my mitral valve. This happened during sleep and was a painless condition, but nevertheless has slowed me down quite a bit. Because of the changes in my health and my finances, I did not think it was likely that I would ever again attend a Council meeting, and I think Council members should be active.

Therefore I resigned. I also asked to have my name removed from The Review Of the News and American Opinion. Of course instead of these we now have The New American. I agree with you that it is a new magazine like Life but not really inspirational.

I do not know why William Cies resigned. We had no correspondence on the subject.

I enclose you a copy of my letter to Scott Stanley dated July 18, 1985.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas Parker

Thomas Parker, M. D.

TP:fc

EXHIBIT 2

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In his letter of January 8, 1986, Chairman Barker accused my father of mailing out promotional material for Conservative Digest "under the signature of your daughter, Diane." The truth of the matter is that the entire project was done in collaboration with a friend, Don Thomson, and my father had no knowledge of the project until after the letters were being mailed. In fact, he told me that he disagreed with the one favorable comment regarding The New American. That comment was written by Don Thomson because my own commentary on the journalistic merits of The New American was unflattering to say the least and Don thought it would offend some people. Therefore, he changed it and had the letter copied.

At no time did either of us willfully engage in violation of copyright laws and there was no financial gain in the effort. Our sole purpose was to increase the subscription base of Conservative Digest. Nothing more. In that this was our only goal, we succeeded.

Diane Provan

Personally Appeared before me
this date DIANE PROVAN
10 Feb. 1986

Arthur T. Jexler, Notary Public
North Hamilton Twp., Westmoreland County
My Commission Expires 12/31/88
Association of Notaries
Penn., Inc.

EXHIBIT 3

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My John Birch Society Coordinator Steve Nekolek sent me a copy of Mr. A. Clifford Barker's letter dated January 8, 1986 that responded to Dr. Charles A. Provan's letter of November 25, 1985. It is my opinion that Mr. Barker's 8 page letter and Exhibits are replete with accusations, assumptions and misstatements.

The most glaring assumption I discovered appears on Page 7 under the heading "AND FINALLY, SOME COMMENTS ON 'TRUTH'". Mr. Barker accuses Dr. Provan of writing a letter dated November 21, 1985 which his daughter Diane signed, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions to CONSERVATIVE DIGEST.

Having been a close friend of the Provans for nearly 20 years and knowing Diane all her life, I talked with her about getting new subscriptions to CONSERVATIVE DIGEST. I sincerely felt the NEW AMERICAN needed to be complimented with the monthly information found in CONSERVATIVE DIGEST, and proceeded to draft a letter for her review and editing. She and I chose the WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION letterhead and at no time did I consult Dr. Provan for content or approval. The total content of the November 21st letter is a production of mine and Diane's.

It was my idea to use the June 1985 JBS Bulletin photo of Diane with Eric Show and Mark Thurmond so that recipients of the letter would see who Diane is and what her commitment has been in this fight for God, Family and Country.

The threatening tone of Mr. Barker's letter stating that Dr. Provan is engaging in a gross violation of copyright law, is almost laughable. Having been a member of the John Birch Society for over 21 years, I've mailed out countless reproductions of Bulletin material on the Panama Canal, The Genocide Treaty, Trade and Aid with the Communists, etc., to alert friends about the crucial issues facing America. Therefore I saw no harm in doing the same on this occasion.

In summary, I hereby swear the above statements to be true and accurate and trust this will serve to set the record straight on this issue raised by Mr. Barker.



Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 13th day of February, 1986

Donald C. Thomson 2/13/86

Donald C. Thomson

DOROTHY M. TELLEP, Notary Public
PITTSBURGH, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA.
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
DECEMBER 12, 1987

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISES

TIMOTHY J. WEIR
Box 734
MANCHESTER, MO. 63011
PHONE 314 331-8197

REPRESENTING:
CONSTITUTION MINT
NATIONAL COIN EXCHANGE
SAMANDY MINI-MOISTURE FOODS

26 Apr 74

Mr. Harry Brandler
1007 Auburn
Highland Park, Ill. 60035

Dear Harry:

Enclosed are copies of my correspondence with Tom Hill and Mr. Hill's response to same at the time just prior to my resignation from the staff of the JBS in May of 72.

As you know, subsequently I was rehired by the JBS in the position of fund-raiser. I worked under the direct supervision of Bruce Taylor. In this capacity I was travelling throughout the nation but particularly the southeast. My observations in my letter of 17 Mar 72 to Tom Hill were if anything greatly reinforced by first hand contact with Coordinators who were working with little or no training and less guidance from the Major Coordinators.

An example- Paul Shetter is the Coordinator for southern Florida including Miami area and Palm Beach area. As you might surmise, these areas are as "southern" or rurally oriented as the Loop area in Chicago. Nevertheless, Shetter is a dedicated country boy from Georgia who was plunked into this environment and given absolutely no guidance and cast off on his own. By Shetter's own admission to me in Jan. of 1973, Delmar Dennis had appointed him(Shetter) Coordinator and then had not been down to see him once in the first year of his work which was then being completed. Shetter had(and still has) many problems as a result of this situation, and the JBS suffered most from the lack of professional direction. The territory immediately north of Shetter's in Central Florida was (and presumably still is) Coordinated by Don Foster. I entered his territory for the first time and ran into 4 members in that first day who besought me to "do something" about the Coordinator since I was "from Belmont". They proceeded to unload their troubles on me. Well, that is another story and but one of many which I personally observed and of a multitude more which Bruce Taylor shared with me.

Because I would not kow-tow to the boys from Belmont, I was fired under the most personally galling set of accusations(wasting money,

(over)

not doing my assigned job, and being a smart-aleck). I agree with the last charge totally. However when Bruce Taylor was told by Robert Welch that I was fired, Bruce went back to his office and presented statistics which revealed that in the 90 or so days since I had started raising funds on my own I had raised more money and spent less money doing same than either Bruce Taylor or John Selck. My firing occurred in Belmont on Friday 9 Mar 73. On 10 Mar 73 (my birthday incidentally) I worked all day long in the Palm Beach area and raised \$4,000. This was a Saturday (when the offices in Belmont are closed and the bureaucrats have the weekend off) and I spent the entire day (first call was 8:30 a.m. and the last 8:00 p.m.) raising money which I then foolishly thought would be most effectively used to help save the freedom of this nation.

I remain convinced that I was fired to prod Bruce Taylor into resigning (my removal from the scene - agitator - was a secondary thorn removed from the triumvirate's collective foot) which he ultimately did about 2 months later. Bruce was dedicated and well liked by nearly all who met him. Problem was too many good people met Bruce and he had quite a following. Problem was that Bruce saw the entire field staff as well as the Mickey Mouse political infighting in Belmont. He saw too clearly the deliberate stunting of the growth of the JBS which was being carried on from the offices of 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass 02178.

Well, I've prattled on for quite a while. If I sound bitter, it's only because I am. Bitter about the sacrifices of thousands of very fine American patriots who have put purblind faith in the self created demi-god who runs the JBS. This misplaced faith was misdirected by the demi-god and his 'Belmont doesn't make mistakes' crowd to be sure, but more's the pity since at this late date many of these good people have awakened to the reality which is Belmont and now have surrendered in disgust.

Harry, you have my explicit permission to show this and other correspondence to any person or people who in your good judgement would be benefited from my comments or observations. Further, feel free to direct any interested parties who would wish to converse with me personally, to contact me at any time.

Yes, Robert Welch's manipulation of JBS financial statements is devious at best and fraudulent at worst.

One other thing, I don't care what happens when a "plant" seeks out your feelings and falsely obtains this type information which will then be forwarded to Welch, Hill, Mann and co. for use as ammunition to destroy anything which you may attempt on your own.

The JBS is a skeleton which will continue to atrophy, but there will always be a JBS.

Sincerely,

P.S. Please excuse the terrible typing.
P.S. OTHER MATERIAL UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

Tim
Tim

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

May 13, 1974

Mr. & Mrs. John DeFriend
Route 5
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372

Dear Mr. and Mrs. DeFriend:

In nearly fifteen years as an employee of The John Birch Society, I have never seen the likes of a letter such as yours of April 30. Though addressed to Bob Koenig, I am taking the liberty of replying to it since in addition to sending me a copy, you have sent copies of it to members of the Society in a wide area.

Resign if you will, but let's get the facts straight in the process of doing so! For instance, it was the concern of this office in March of this year, which prompted our Major Coordinator, Mr. Koenig, to sit down with Mr. Brandler and to request certain steps on his part. I mention this for I do want to make clear that we were in full accord with what Mr. Koenig discussed with Mr. Brandler.

We were of the opinion that the requests made were received well by Mr. Brandler and that he was going to implement them right away. Only when we received a copy of his letter of resignation dated April 12, did we learn differently. As you will recall, copies of that letter were also sent to his "Various Friends." We can certainly see where anyone reading Mr. Brandler's letter, would get the impression that this office, or our Major Coordinator or both, had been unduly critical of Mr. Brandler's efforts and actually, quite "picky."

It was our opinion at the time, that this discussion with Mr. Brandler was absolutely necessary. We feel that we have an obligation to spend what funds we receive from our members, as carefully and as judiciously as possible. Our concern with Mr. Brandler was that of some 85 men in the field, his expenses, consistently, were much higher than anyone else's. And when we mention 85 men, we very much include some 30 Coordinators whose territories are larger than the one covered by Mr. Brandler. Also included in the 85 men are all of our Major Coordinators -- whose territories include as many as ten states. We felt an obligation to sit down with Mr. Brandler and to try to work out a way in which we could bring about more coverage in Illinois and at less expense. We were convinced at the time, and most assuredly are today, that this could have been achieved. But as his letter of resignation indicated, he considered our requests of the "watch dog type harassment tactic" variety.

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR., M.D.

S. J. AGNEW*

THOMAS J. ANDERSON

A. CLIFFORD BARKER

CARLTON BEAL

FRANK CULLEN BROPHY

JOHN T. BROWN

ROBERT H. BUFFINGTON

LAURENCE E. BUNKER*

F. GANO CHANCE

STILLWELL J. CONNER

RALPH E. DAVIS

REV. FRANCIS E. FENTON

JOHN L. GRADY, M.D.

WM. J. GREDE*

NORMAN GUNN, D.P.M.

A. G. HEINSOHN, JR.*

HON. CLYDE R. LEWIS

CLARENCE MANION

L. P. McDONALD, M.D.

N. FLOYD MCGOWIN

ROBERT H. MONTGOMERY*

THOMAS PARKER, M.D.

FLOYD PAXTON*

ROBERT B. PRICE, JR.

HON. JOHN G. SCHMITZ

J. NELSON SHEPHERD

J. A. SIEGEL

ROBERT W. STODDARD*

CLYDE J. WATTS

* Executive Committee

Mr. & Mrs. John DeFriend
May 13, 1974
Page two

We did not question Mr. Brandler's dedication but we did question his routines in following through with the work that had been assigned to him. And again, it was our obligation to do so. Some of those "Various Friends" who received a copy of Mr. Brandler's letter of resignation, have since written to us. We, in turn, have provided each one with the explanation above.

Perhaps your most vicious attack against Mr. Koenig and this office was with regard to Mr. Brandler's serious illness of several years ago. To blame this illness on the Society's policies as "contrived in Belmont, which you (Koenig) diligently carried out" is both unfair and untrue. For months prior to his hospitalization, Harry Brandler was not well. I remember discussing his condition with him both in person and over the telephone. We were all concerned -- concerned for Mr. Brandler and concerned that the area, without his active efforts, would suffer. He pulled through -- thank goodness. And if you think that everyone in this office and in the field who knew about his illness, was not rooting for him every step of the way, you are sadly mistaken.

But the real point of all this is that we never asked of Mr. Brandler anything that we did not ask for from other members of our staff. To insinuate that we singled him out for harsh or poor or unkind treatment -- whether during the time he was sick or when he has been well, is once again a gross misstatement of the facts as they were and are. Or to put it another way, Mr. and Mrs. DeFriend, if we are so cruel as you imply, to contrive policies for the purpose of putting a full-time employee in a hospital, would we not be capable of simply firing that employee instead!

Throughout your letter there are distortions and untruths of unbelievable proportions. To explain all of the specifics would fill many pages. And frankly, we haven't the time to do so nor do we think anything would be gained in the process. For the charges and threats and distortions you are now making and presenting daily, many of which are not found in your letter, but which you have been relaying to good members of the Society, make clear that your efforts are for the purpose of trying to weaken the Society wherever and whenever you can.

But before closing this letter out, there are a few of your most absurd accusations which we will go to the trouble of

Mr. & Mrs. John DeFriend
May 13, 1974
Page three

clearing up. You asked what had happened to the anti-OSHA drive and then insinuated that our Field Staff is to "use OSHA as a fulcrum to raise money, but are not to try to destroy this beast."

As a result of the Advertising and Sales calls made over the last ten months by our Field Staff, thousands of our fellow Americans, who would not have known otherwise, are alerted to, are opposing, and are awakening their friends and associates to, OSHA. Many thousands of businessmen, concerned about OSHA, are now actively helping our members in creating that sufficient understanding necessary to bring repeal of this monstrosity. Today there are some forty Congressmen who have co-sponsored the bill to repeal OSHA -- where but a handful were willing to do so initially.

Over three quarters of a million copies of our article re-prints on the subject have thus far been distributed. As a result of the interest in our campaign to repeal OSHA, one full-length book (Business End Of Government) is being placed in the hands of tens of thousands of business leaders across the country who can, as a result of their influence, do so much to help in our campaign.

There are thousands of Nix-On-OSHA Committees now operating all over the country. In the Midwest alone, well over 100,000 OSHA packets have been sent to business leaders -- and many of these recipients have been followed up personally

As just one tiny example of what is being done, a few weeks ago members of the Society, along with their Coordinator, rented a suite of rooms at a New York hotel where a major national pro-OSHA meeting was being held. High governmental officials as well as the President of the National Association of Manufacturers spent three days singing the glories of OSHA and how to "get along" with it. Day and night our members showed films and filmstrips in this suite of rooms to hundreds of the people who had come to this convention. Thousands of pieces of our literature were distributed and sold. The OSHACRATS were stunned, to say the least.

Literally thousands of showings of "Threads of Tyranny" and "The OSHA Controversy" have been sponsored by our members throughout the country. Television showings of both have also been sponsored by our Nix-On-OSHA Committees. Seminars on OSHA conducted by Alan Stang, as well as speeches on the subject by Dan Smoot, have been sponsored by our members throughout the country. The results of these, as both men can tell you, have been most encouraging in every way.

Mr. & Mrs. John DeFriend
May 13, 1974
Page four

Due to the efforts of our staff and membership, resolutions have already been passed to repeal OSHA in the legislatures of Mississippi, Oklahoma and Alaska. Drives for the same purpose are being conducted effectively in other states.

And on this point alone, we could use another number of pages to show the progress being made on just this front alone. But again, the most startling and encouraging success has been experienced by members of our Field Staff in reaching, personally, thousands of concerned people who, a year ago, were fast asleep. Many of these people have since joined the Society and are urging their friends and associates to do the same.

You then asked: "What business are we in anyway?" To which we reply: "Where on earth have you been?!!"

Caustically you state: "It is becoming only too clear that the job of coordinators is to help finance and perpetuate an institution, but not to oppose evil, a few examples of fluff to the contrary notwithstanding." Again, where have you been? In the June, 1973 Bulletin Mr. Welch spelled out what would be an additional assignment for members of our Field Staff. And just as one result of their efforts since, we have been able to reach, and then put to work, thousands of previously uninformed Americans. And as to "not opposing evil," Mr. and Mrs. DeFriend, you have vindictively indicted one of the finest group of men ever brought together -- and you should be ashamed of yourselves for doing so. I'll bet you have never met but a handful of our Field Staff since you joined the Society. But yet, you can, without conscience, condemn them -- as well as all. The examples of "fluff" (as you call it) with regard to the progress these men have made in exposing OSHA, makes clear that they are doing a very effective job indeed in exposing evil.

For a moment, and before closing out this letter, let us look closely at your comments concerning our former Coordinator, Dick Weiss. For the record, you state: "Dick had a promising career with a growing firm in the Elgin area. You (Bob Koenig) may remember that you pulled him out and shipped him to South Dakota as a paid Coordinator. This at a time when Southern Illinois badly needed a Coordinator as there were several chapters already in existence." Later you speak of Mr. Weiss being "forced" to move from his home in Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. DeFriend, Mr. Weiss was offered the Coordinator position in South Dakota. He was also enthusiastically recommended for the job by Mr. Brandler. Mr. Weiss accepted it. We really can not force anyone to come on our staff nor

Mr. & Mrs. John DeFriend
May 13, 1974
Page five

can we force anyone to move if he chooses not to. At the time, our plans for expansion involved the appointment of additional Coordinators for those sparsely populated states because of the representation factor. Where, as it turned out, these plans were sound and proved to be effective in a number of areas, by the time Mr. Weiss left the staff -- nearly two years from the time he went on, we had practically, if not exactly, the same number of chapters in South Dakota as we had when he began. We never questioned his dedication or sincerity. In fact we said to him at the time: "I know that the fact we have not made progress there in so far as significant increase in strength, has been as troubling to you as it has been to us." We simply had to discontinue his services because the Society practically stood still in spite of his well intentioned efforts.

As to the Dale Preston/Charles Hatton situation, our files are filled with correspondence from, and to, both gentlemen. And the story it presents is quite different from what you have been led to believe. And as to the tragedy involving Richard Nuccio, "Belmont knuckled under" so well the Gertz case is right now in the hands of the Supreme Court of the United States. And it has been a real fight all along the way.

No, we certainly do not think Rex Westerfield is a Communist. But this man you are in touch with, and about whose activities we wrote in the October, 1973 Bulletin, did take advantage of the theft of the membership lists of the Society, the subscription lists of its magazines, and the lists of its book stores and contributors -- after resigning from the staff. And has since been fully aware of the fact that these same lists have either been sold, given, or loaned to others who for some time have been vicious enemies of the Society.

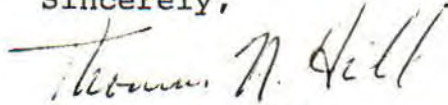
There is much much more that could be said, Mr. and Mrs. DeFriend. We enclose checks amounting to eight and five dollars as return of your dues submitted in advance. And in so doing we accept your resignations for the good of The John Birch Society.

Over fifteen years ago we set out to stop the Conspiracy and then bring about less government, more responsibility and with God's help, a better world. We have never wavered from that course. We have much to do to win this battle but are more confident than ever that it can be won. The weapon of truth, wielded by tens of thousands of members of the Society, is what we believe will make the difference between victory and defeat.

Mr. & Mrs. John DeFriend
May 13, 1974
Page six

May God help you to find and then act upon truth -- and
the truth only -- in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas N. Hill". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Thomas N. Hill
Director, Field Activities

May 31, 1974

Mr. Thomas N. Hill
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your May 13th reply to our letter of April 30. There are a number of points that were raised by your reply, and we shall discuss some of them below, under various subject headings as indicated. There is one observation which we must make at the start; -- we received the original copy of your reply, and it was signed by you (we assume), but you did not indicate any carbon copies to go to anyone. You may have been technically correct in that, since we have not seen any "carbon copies", but rather, spirit duplicator copies, typed with what looks like a different typewriter, sent to some people, and some of them, in turn, let us see or have a copy. These spirit duplicator copies were sent from Crystal Lake in a JBS envelope with Mr. Koenig's name and address stamped thereon, and were essentially the same as the reply you sent us, except no signature at the bottom. Just an observation, Tom, nothing else; the fact is that our letter had indicated that copies were being sent to a number of people, and it is obvious that your intent was to do the same thing. It appears to us that you at least could have indicated this on your original; not that it bothers us in any way. It's just an interesting observation as to how Belmont operates. Well, let's get on to the main subject headings and the commentary:

MR. HARRY M. BRANDLER

We confess that we were frankly quite concerned over some of the harrassment that Harry had to undergo from your office and Mr. Koenig's over the past few years, and it was obvious to us that his reason for resignation, at least as stated in his letter of April 12, was that he had enough of those tactics. And frankly, all of your prevarications and pretenses to the contrary cannot change that fact.

You stated in your letter that you were in full accord with what Mr. Koenig discussed with Mr. Brandler. Since we are sending Mr. Brandler a copy of this letter, we appeal to him to stop holding back and to let the truth out, especially as to what was actually said at that conversation which you so fully backed, and that really made Mr. Brandler's mind up about resigning.

Mr. Thomas N. Hill
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts

May 31, 1974
Page Two

Also, your letter indicates that you thought everything was just honky dory after that conversation, and you seemed surprised when you received his resignation letter. But -- apparently not quite that surprised, since within hours you had another Coordinator appointed to replace him. Again, this is an excellent illustration of how Belmont operates (not the hiring of a new Coordinator, but the swiftness of this hiring, while all the time maintaining your complete surprise at Mr. Brandler's resignation).

You also cited your obligations to spend the membership dues and contributions as judiciously as possible. This is very noble, conscientious, and appropriate on your part. So, let's look at some examples of your judicious use of funds:

- 1) Mr. Brandler found it necessary to look for outside office space; he had worked out of a five foot crawl space for all those previous years. You would not supply him any allowance for this outside office, so he had to secure an office without any help from the JBS. Now, that's real austerity! And to top it off, you actually asked Mr. Brandler NOT to make this information available to the membership. Now, that's real openhandedness!
- 2) For so many years, Mr. Brandler's wife, Rosemary, has virtually been his right arm and has put in on the average of 30 hours per week on typing and other work to assist in the maintenance of the territory. And she was not paid anything for any of it (of course, she didn't ask for anything either).
- 3) At this point, the judicious use of funds argument starts to break down. For example, we understand that Mr. Koenig's daughter, Midge, when she returned from employment in Belmont, received payment for many hours of work on his correspondence for weeks and weeks and weeks. If this would have been revealed of a public official, the JBS would have shouted "nepotism" in righteous indignation. But, apparently, when the daughter or other relative of a major coordinator is involved, the JBS is strangely silent. Judicious use of funds, eh?
- 4) For over six months, Mr. Koenig was sitting in his Glenview office, working on his "Grid Books" for every one of his Coordinators. And, during a good part of that time, he was using a clothes iron to "iron on" the laminating sheets to the sheets of each "Grid Book"! And for THAT, you paid a man the salary you did, to do that kind of unproductive work. Is this judicious use of funds?

Mr. Thomas N. Hill
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts

May 31, 1974
Page Three

5) As just one other small example of your judicious use of funds, perhaps you might want to explain the huge long distance phone bills incurred by Belmont, who, as we understand it, was in constant contact with Mr. John Schmitz when he secured the American Party nomination for U.S. President. And especially, when you come to think of the JBS's being chartered as "non-political". It seems, in our opinion, very difficult to reconcile this apparent paradox, as well as your claim to the judicious use of funds.

The main factor in Mr. Brandler's expenses seems to have been in the area of mileage. It is interesting to note that you never did answer that part of Mr. Brandler's resignation letter (from the staff) in which he had maintained that his expenses had remained fairly constant ever since he had been on the staff. And, that for over a year, Mr. Koenig had received copies of these reports. Why, all of a sudden, did you all sneak up on Mr. Brandler and complain about his expenses? We know that there is a lot more to this than meets the eye, and your explanation is so transparent, that once again, we appeal to Mr. Brandler to make public the facts of the matter so that everyone can see what they are.

Regarding Mr. Brandler's illness, it is most interesting to see how you slither around the entire subject like a serpent. You are talking about two totally unrelated maladies, and making it seem as though they were one and the same. The illness that we described in detail was the one in which his intestines were totally ulcerated, due to the hurt he was keeping inside himself, rather than to hurt the JBS, which had through its policies, put him in the hospital in the first place. This illness had nothing to do with the case of temporary dizziness, which he had picked up a couple of years before that (It reminds us of the story of Mr. A, who shot Mr. B in the eye, and then, when hauled into court, Mr. A had the nerve to claim that his bullet had nothing to do with the loss of Mr. B's eye; that actually the cause of his eye loss was that two years earlier, Mr. B had stubbed his toe against a couch!) Now, Mr. Brandler's latter illness was directly caused by the policies contrived in Belmont and especially dealing with the Coniker affair and how it was clandestinely executed with conspiracy at every turn behind Mr. Brandler's back. And this man (Mr. Brandler) is the one you say you were "rooting for". Goodness only knows, Tom, under the circumstances, we hope you never "root" for us! We might also mention that we knew Mr. Brandler quite well and were very close with him at the time, and his problems with the dizziness were solved by February, 1970. The Coniker affair took place in mid-May, 1970 and Mr. Brandler was emotionally crushed by it all. His condition physically started to deteriorate until finally, in mid-January, 1971, he was rushed to a hospital.

Mr. Thomas N. Hill
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts

May 31, 1974
Page Four

However, assuming that you always tell the truth, and that you were concerned because the area covered by Mr. Brandler would suffer during his "long illness", we should like to mention that during that time, he had produced almost single-handedly the mammoth "History of the Conspiracy" course; "Innocents Defiled", a filmstrip which the JBS marketed, and never offered one cent of royalty to Mr. Brandler for; "License to Kill", a filmstrip also marketed by the JBS and again, Mr. Brandler was never offered one solitary cent for that. He also prepared a magnificent Ecology seminar, many of the points of which are still current (this was prepared and presented in May, 1970). All during that time, he was coordinating full-time and doing a tremendous job.

And you rewarded this type of productive output with a clandestine, conspiratorial, behind-the-back operation, in which Mr. Coniker was given two congressional districts which had literally been stolen right from under Mr. Brandler without his knowledge until it was a fait accompli. My, what noble, noble men you are! Again, I am appealing to Mr. Brandler to let the public know just exactly what did happen, and the sequence of events that led up to this reprehensible affair, and what took place during it, and after it. Our understanding is that only a handful of people are even aware of what had happened, and this man, whose loyalty to the JBS was tested beyond any reasonable means, we repeat again, almost died because of your policies contrived in Belmont and in Chicago by the Major Coordinator.

FIELD STAFF TURNOVER

Tom, there won't be much space devoted to this subject; suffice it to say that you made a point in your letter that we couldn't have known but a handful of the field staff. In fact, we knew quite a number of them, but we couldn't keep track of them since they were leaving the staff at such a high rate. Our concern was that the turnover rate of field staff is (numerically and percentage-wise) so high that we must ask a few questions: With the exception of Mr. Koenig and undoubtedly a few others, why do so many of the coordinators quit, and why are so many others fired? Could it possibly be that this is a planned phase-out? Or is it controlled opposition? Or does it perhaps take about 4 or 5 years or so for many coordinators to wake up to the reality that is Belmont? In fact, the statements and allegations contained in your letter merely serve to multiply the counterquestions at an exponential rate!

Mr. Thomas N. Hill
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts

May 31, 1974
Page Five

THREATS

In your letter of the 13th you indicate that, among other things, we have been making "threats". We don't know what threats you are talking about, but there is one which your Minnesota coordinator, Bob Busche, has been accusing us of. This same charge was repeated by Mr. Koenig in Illinois and subsequently at a special meeting of Minnesota chapter and section leaders. This meeting was called to "answer the charges" in our April 30 letter. Of course, we were officially barred from attending, but, not wishing to see any more hypocrisy from the leadership of the finest body of men and women in the world, and trying to make sure that they wouldn't be accused of talking behind our back, we decided to attend anyway. Now, at that meeting, Bob Busche retracted those charges, not once, but three times in the presence of Mr. Koenig, several witnesses, and a tape recorder. He also apologized for making them in the first place. Mr. Koenig said in public that his only source for this charge was Bob Busche. Perhaps, in future correspondence, you may want to make a "precautionary prevaricative check".

OSHA

On the subject of OSHA which you folks were so sensitive about that you took $1\frac{1}{2}$ pages to cover it (pardon the pun!), you might be interested in noting the following: The Twin-Cities STOP Committee, which we chaired, 1) sponsored Alan Stang on this subject, and the attendance at BOTH talks was around 800, and this is not a puffed-up figure; 2) held a parade containing about 70 vehicles with specially made car-top signs; 3) mailed a little over 9,000 pieces of literature to businessmen in two separate mailings; 4) rented 40 full-sized billboards; 5) sponsored TV and radio appearances; 6) pumped slightly over \$11,000 through the Committee in order to destroy OSHA; and 7) engaged in personal follow-up. Now, it's interesting to note that after all of this, your Coordinator, Bob Busche, told us that his Job was to use OSHA to raise money for the JBS. He had kicked in some of his own money to the anti-OSHA drive but asked for it back before any of this current mess was started by your office. (We have paid more than half of it back so far.) We thought at the time that the money thus raised would be used exclusively to fight OSHA, but alas, as you undoubtedly well know, such is not the case.

But all of that aside, in your letter you said, "There are thousands of Nix-On-OSHA Committees now operating all over the country". Now, seeing that you used the plural of thousand and since there were only two such Committees in all of Minnesota, that leaves at least 1998 for the other 49 states; or is it 2998, 3998, 4998, or what? Perhaps a little review of elementary arithmetic might be in order for you people up there, or do you really expect that anyone would believe such numbers? But, the OSHA program, a money making scheme at best, is just one of many money making schemes that were contrived by the JBS over the years. Some examples and associated pamphlets come to mind,

Mr. Thomas N. Hill
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts

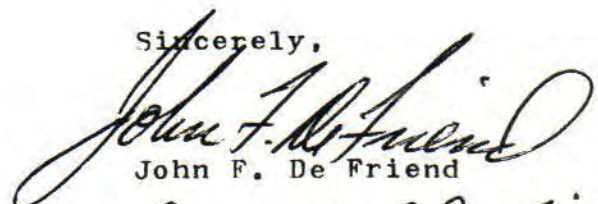
May 31, 1974
Page Seven

"knuckled under" at best, was to try to save yourselves \$50,000. Now, we would be the first to agree that this is quite a sum of currency. But it appears that Belmont took the pragmatic approach, and not the principled one, in preventing further distribution of this potent weapon, "Frame-Up".

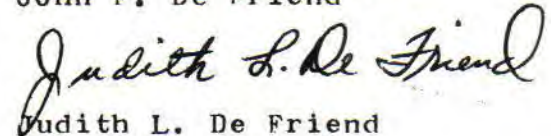
In closing out this letter, Tom, let us first say that we could have gone on and on, but felt that we had to stop somewhere. But, we felt it vital to indicate certain observations based on some of the points raised in your letter. You, wishing to respond to our letter, could make a response, and then, we would have the option of responding to your response, and on and on it can go. We wish to make one final appeal, and this is not to you, Tom, but to probably one of your most loyal former staff members, Mr. Brandler. He has been villified beyond belief, behind his back (what other way does Belmont operate?), and has generally tried to stay out of it. We ask him, by copy of this letter, to come forth and tell at least the interested parties to these letters exactly what he knows, and specifically, exactly why he decided to resign from the staff of the JBS. Oh yes, he has told us, but gave us a positive prohibition from saying anything to anyone about it, and believe us when we say we haven't said one word. Only he can release the information and make it public. In the interest of fairness and to stay true to the stated principles of the JBS, we make our final appeal that he now do so.

And as to you Tom, the only thing we can say is to quote your last sentence in your letter of the 13th back to you and hope that maybe you will listen to your own advice: "May God help you to find and then act upon truth -- and the truth only -- in the future."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. De Friend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "J" and "F".

John F. De Friend

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Judith L. De Friend". The signature is more formal and upright than the one above, with clear lettering.

Judith L. De Friend

cc: Everybody

April 12, 1974

Mr. Robert J. Koenig
2011 Lake Avenue
Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014

Dear Bob;

This is in response to your letter of 3/26 and our conversation of 3/28. After several days of thorough and penetrating thought, I have completed my analysis of your letter, our conversation, and my tenure of 7½ years on the Staff of the John Birch Society — and I have reached some conclusions and made some decisions.

If indeed my traveling and other expenses were out of line for the years 1972 and 1973, then I would have appreciated your discussing this with me several years before that, as my expenses have averaged about the same amount each year, since I have been on the Staff.

Actually, Bob, all of the above discussion is simply a matter of analyzing the territory; determining the best possible and most economical procedure for fulfilling my responsibilities, and then trying to implement those plans to the best of my ability. These matters can be discussed and worked out with no major problems — but there is an underlying inference which concerns me greatly. Even more disturbing is your request that on the back of my expense reports, I report to you the date, location, type of call, and name of the individual for every call that I make — in short, to account for virtually every second of my time. Bob, if I were new to the Staff of the JBS, I might not find that request too unusual, but having faithfully served as a Coordinator for 7½ years, I now find that request insulting and untenable, and I will not comply with it. If you are concerned about the points in your request mentioned above, then I think this matter should have been resolved 7 years ago and not at this time.

Considering my experience and relative success as a Coordinator, I believe this request is completely unreasonable and I am quite convinced that if I have to spend the required time filling out these reports, then my effectiveness would be substantially reduced. As a matter of fact, this watch-dog type harassment tactic would neutralize my ability to perform my responsibilities.

Under the circumstances, I believe it to be in the best interests of all parties concerned that this letter should be my resignation from the Staff of the JBS, which is effective at 12:01 am April 28. This will allow you two weeks in which to secure a replacement and give ample time so that the transition to a new man can be as smooth as possible.

It should be understood that I have earned 3 weeks vacation; therefore, on the 27th of April I will anticipate receiving a check for my salary in full, including the three week vacation. Also, at that time, I will transfer to you the files, records, and equipment which belong to the JBS. Also, effective the week I received your letter (week of 3/24/74), through April 27, all of my expenses relative to JBS work will be paid by me, and I will therefore be submitting no reports to Belmont for those expenses.

Bob, I also want it clearly understood that I believe wholeheartedly in the stated principles of the JBS. I am simply resigning from the Staff for good sound reasons, but do not want this action interpreted by anyone as a rejection of the stated principles of the JBS, or as a resignation of my membership. You, the other members of the JBS Staff, and all of the members have my wish for every success and my prayers for the better new world which we all envision.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Brandler
Harry M. Brandler
Coordinator

Copies to: Mr. Tom Hill
Various Friends

Founder
ROBERT WELCH

The Council
N. E. ADAMSON, JR., M.D.
S. J. AGNEW *
THOMAS J. ANDERSON
A. CLIFFORD BARKER
CARLTON BEAL
FRANK CULLEN BROPHY
JOHN T. BROWN
ROBERT H. BUFFINGTON
LAURENCE E. BUNKER *
F. GANO CHANCE
STILLWELL J. CONNER
RALPH E. DAVIS
REV. FRANCIS E. FENTON
WM. J. GREDE *
A. G. HEINSOHN, JR. *
CLYDE R. LEWIS
CLARENCE MANION
L. P. McDONALD, M.D.
N. FLOYD MCGOWIN
ROBERT H. MONTGOMERY *
THOMAS PARKER, M.D.
FLOYD PAXTON
HON. JOHN G. SCHMITZ
J. NELSON SHEPHERD
J. A. SIEGEL
ROBERT W. STODDARD *
CLYDE J. WATTS
* Executive Committee

Route 5
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372

April 30, 1974

REGISTERED LETTER

Mr. Robert J. Koenig
Major Coordinator
The John Birch Society
2011 Lake Avenue
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Dear Bob:

It has taken some years to bring me to the point where it is necessary to write the letter which follows.

Harry Brandler, as you know, recently resigned his job as the John Birch Society coordinator for Illinois after eleven years as a faithful member. In reading over a copy of his letter of resignation, we were amazed at the pressures brought to bear upon him in order to prevent him from doing the job he was hired to do. Namely, bringing the educational battle for Americanism to the enemy and destroying the enemy's ability and will to resist.

Perhaps we should not have been so amazed, for how well many of us remember just a few years ago, Harry, on what looked like a death bed, with ulcerized and pulverized intestines throughout the upper and lower tract. - And there is now no doubt in my mind, that it was policies contrived in Belmont, which you diligently carried out, which put Harry in that spot. Why? We have known Harry and been close to him for over six years. Steeped in humility, he successfully organized Birchers time and time again and rallied them to victory after victory.

There is much more that could be said on this subject, but our love of the principles which the Society purports to stand for might incline me to overlook all of the foregoing as merely tragic errors that could be traced to human frailty. Now, however, we submit below a partial list of "coincidences" that strain our credulity.

1. The Jerry Coniker affair In 1970 the 12th and 13th congressional districts were pulled away from Harry, behind his back, without any advance notice and turned over to Jerry Coniker as the "new" coordinator to handle those districts. It turns out that Mr. Coniker, just by coincidence, happens to be your wife's cousin.

As you might recall there was once an American Opinion Bookstore in Waukegan, Illinois owned and operated by Dale Preston and Charlie Hatton. I know both of these men and as a matter of fact, Dale recruited me into the Society. They are good men, Bob, both possessed of strong moral fibre. What was their crime? It seems that Mr. Preston spent a good deal of his time on a local radio talk show, promoting the principles Belmont alleges it stands for. Coniker ordered him to stop; purporting that Mr. Preston did not possess a good command of the King's English, at least not as good as Coniker's English.

Mr. Preston had, of course, been successful in getting the entire community talking about the merits of our principles, and an enraged left wing was busily attacking him. Mr. Preston therefore refused Coniker's order. Result? Coniker ordered JBS members in his area to boycott Mr. Preston's JBS bookstore. Bob, you might remember Mr. Hatton's pleas for help on the back of his chapter reports. Well, as you probably remember, without member support the bookstore soon went down the tubes.

Coniker's next move was to require JBS leaders and members to keep detailed - and I do mean detailed - records of all their activities. Result? Anti-Communist resistance in those congressional districts went to zero.

Do you remember what happened next Bob? Coniker grabbed his guns and rosaries and ran to Portugal. Of course, Belmont cleverly concealed this fact when explaining Coniker's move to Powers Lake, Wisconsin.

Next a new coordinator to replace Coniker was installed. He lasted a short time, then another coordinator was appointed, and he was gone just as fast. What was once a lively, active, hotbed for the Americanist cause was then handed back to Harry Brandler - in an absolute shambles - Why?

2. The Richard Nuccio affair Bob, both you and I know Richard personally. This is the Chicago police officer framed by the Daly administration and others in Chicago as part of a peace offering to the terrorist bands who tore up Chicago at the Democratic convention in 1968. In fact the lead article, "Frame Up", in the April 1969 American Opinion and a subsequent edition of Review of the News are devoted to the Richard Nuccio story.

Elmer Gertz of the National Lawyers Guild, which was cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as "one of the foremost legal bulwarks of the Communist Party", brought suit in an apparent attempt to prevent further distribution of the above AO article. This article, of course, was the main weapon we were using to prevent Officer Nuccio from being incarcerated. How fast Belmont knuckled under! Do you remember how quickly Belmont pulled this our main weapon, away from us? Result? Richard Nuccio, one of the best Section Leaders the Chicago area ever had, now sits in prison under daily threat of assassination by real criminals. And what of Richard's wife, Sandy? A finer woman you will not find. The salt of the earth. What of Richard's three children? What's your suggestion Bob? Keep smiling? "No man wins when freedom fails. The best men rot in filthy jails, and those who cried appease, appease, are hanged by those they tried to please." Why did Belmont try to appease the National Lawyers Guild?

3. The Illinois Motorede affair Bob, you may remember, in late 1970 our section in Illinois formed a Motorede network across the state for the purpose of stopping the pro-abortion drive in Illinois. We were making good headway in preventing the slaughter of innocents whereupon you, going directly over the head of your own coordinator, replaced the proven leadership of the Motorede network with Jerry Coniker and Reverend Paul Lindstrom. Lindstrom, of course, is noted for his virulent anti-semitic and anti-Catholic diatribes from the pulpit. Result? All organized Birch opposition to the pro-abortion drive in Illinois collapsed. Why? Was this your own idea?

4. Speaking of projects that were cut off in mid-stream, did you know that the Birch Tax Reform Movement scored a tremendous success in New Jersey? Yes, that's right! The New Jersey State Tax was repealed due to the efforts of this movement. Result? No further organized activity in this area in any other state. Why?

After a great deal of noise for a few months, whatever happened to the anti-OSHA drive? Need we tell you that coordinators apparently are to use OSHA as a fulcrum to raise money, but are not to try to destroy this beast? What business are we in anyway? Why are our national projects never driven to completion? The success stories we have been getting out of Belmont always seem to be the result of activities on a local scene only.

It is becoming only too clear that the job of coordinators is to help finance and perpetuate an institution, but not to oppose evil, a few examples of fluff to the contrary notwithstanding. There's your reason for coordinator turnover. When good men wake up to the fact that they have been played for a sucker, they leave. The only ones who stay, after this realization, are those willing to suborn their principles.

5. The Richard Weiss affair Dick Weiss, as you know Bob, was an able and capable section leader in Elgin, Illinois. He was the spark plug that created out of nothing several new chapters in the Elgin area. Those chapters contributed in no small measure to the Americanist cause. Dick had a promising career with a growing firm in the Elgin area. You may remember that you pulled him out and shipped him to South Dakota as a paid coordinator. This at a time when Southern Illinois badly needed a coordinator as there were several chapters already in existence. More chapters in fact than in all of South Dakota. Not to mention the fact that Dick would likely not have been forced to move from his home in Elgin. Result? Inside of fourteen months he was fired and abandoned in South Dakota with no job, but a home and family to support. Now there is no coordinator in either Southern Illinois or South Dakota, but there is one highly disillusioned former section leader. Whatever happened to the chapters Dick created in Elgin? Is this the justice and morality promoted by Belmont? Well, keep smiling buddy - by the way, was it Rex Westerfield who was so viciously stabbed in the back in a recent bulletin? As Robert Welch said repeatedly; "We intend to fight the Communists and nobody else." We hope you don't think Rex is one, or do you?

Are Gil Lee and Bob Busche, and in that order, next on the list of good men to be so shabbily treated?

As we said at the beginning of this letter, (which has turned out to be a book and we may decide to write one which will be substantially longer than this one) the foregoing is but a small amount of total information available on these subjects and many more. We have finally put it all down in black and white. The result when seen neatly laid out in one package is devastating.

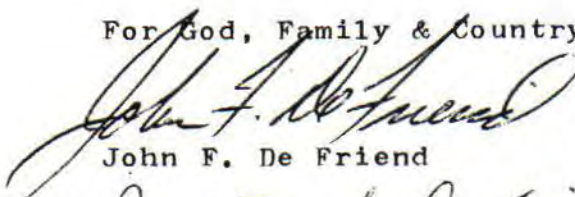
What I do now, I should have done long ago - Mea culpa, Mea culpa, Mea Maxima culpa. My conscience compels me to sever my association with an organization whose leadership preaches morality, but practices amorality and has played such a cruel hoax on so many tens of thousands of good men and women. Yes Virginia, the conspiracy really is there, but it is obvious that the top leadership of this body provides no solutions, except to help that same conspiracy.

The fire of resistance to tyranny, in spite of all you have done, still burns brightly in my soul. With God's help, when and because we have deserved it, we shall be more effective on the outside.

Therefore effective with the date of this letter my resignation from membership will be in force. You will also note my wife's signature affixed below. Please forward the pro-rata portion of our dues paid in advance.

May God forgive you and those manipulators above you the treachery that has been committed and the betrayal of so many good men and women.

For God, Family & Country,



John F. De Friend



Judith L. De Friend

cc: • H. Brandler
• R. Busche
• J. Coniker
• C. Hatton
• T. Hill
• G. Lee
• P. Lindstrom
• R. Nuccio
• S. Nuccio
• D. Preston
• R. Weiss
• R. Westerfield
• R. Welch

Illinois Section Leaders/Chapter Leaders/Members & Friends
Minnesota Section Leaders/Chapter Leaders/Members & Friends
Various JBS Leaders & Members around the country

ROBERT E. GRANT
4025 VIRGINIA AVE.
ST. PAUL, MN. 55112

August 28, 1974

Dear Council Member:

As you are no doubt aware, there have recently been many rumblings and strident notes of discord running through the once-harmonious ranks of The John Birch Society. Many of us in Minnesota are especially concerned about the legal charges directed at the Society, described in the attached press article.

Considering the Society's size, years in operation and the level of competence exhibited over the years, it would seem strange, indeed, that there could be any substance to such an illegal and possibly immoral operation in this state or any other.

These charges, regardless of what this state's basis may be, were first brought to my attention in several recent tape recordings of phone conversations between a close friend (a former member) and the following former Belmont staff members:

Mr. Donald Prang - Comptroller of the JBS and affiliated corporations

Mr. Bruce Taylor - Director of Sales and Advertising

Mr. Tim Weir - Staff Fund Raiser, former Area Coordinator

Mr. Rex Westerfield - Director of Public Relations, Director of San Marino Office.

The collective testimony of these men asserts, among other improprieties, that financial statements of the Society and affiliated corporations were manipulated and embellished by Belmont to make the five corporations appear considerably larger and more successful than they in fact were, and that these statements were used as promotional material in selling stock in, and soliciting loans for, one or more of the Society's operations.

Some of Mr. Taylor's business contacts supposedly found certain glaring inconsistencies and questionable accounting methods in these financial statements. Their remarks were presented to Mr. Welch by Messrs. Taylor and Weir, but to no avail. Mr. Welch allegedly used unusual methods of bookkeeping which Taylor and Weir were unable to comprehend.

Following local publicity of these tapes within the Twin City area membership, a shaken but loyal member, obeying Mr. Welch's dictum of three recent bulletins to "check with Belmont" on rumors derogatory to the Society, asked in his MIMM for an explanation of this matter and for copies of the financial statements for three recent years. He received the attached reply.

Further testimony in this burgeoning affair is to be found in the attached letter of resignation of Mr. Harry Brandler, Area Coordinator of Illinois for seven years.

In the August bulletin Mr. Welch, as usual, failed to name or identify the "disgruntled cabal of former members" and/or "disappointed coattail riders", and did not describe their specific activities and accusations. If, in fact, this cabal consists, inter alios, of former highly-placed Belmont staff and field staff

members, one begins to suspect that there may be considerably more than a grain of truth in what they are saying. Any attempt by a member to question Belmont on this is apparently met with a reply similar to the attached MMM. This is unsatisfactory.

Now it might be argued that such information is private and confidential and could be used against the Society by its numerous enemies. But since such reports are filed with the state of Massachusetts, according to law, wherein the Society is registered as a non-profit educational organization, one would assume that such records are public domain, subject to public scrutiny. If so, why withhold such information from an inquiring member "as a matter of policy"? It at least suggests a cover-up.

I have been a loyal and devoted member for ten years and have struggled to avoid pre-judging the top leadership of the Society until these and many other unrelated questions are properly answered to my satisfaction. I cannot, in proper conscience, ignore these charges of fraud. They are made by too many people in former high staff positions, not simply "former members and coattail riders". I think you will agree that this entire matter must be objectively investigated, and with vigor.

If, in fact, the Society's top leaders have committed these alleged wrong doings, it is a grievous wrong. Honest men do not do such things. Those of us who are trying to learn the facts about this matter do so in a quest for truth and for the sake of serving the cause, not with any prejudice or intent to destroy the John Birch Society. Though it is apparent that Mr. Welch has served the cause so well in the past, it must be kept in mind, during this inquiry, that our loyalty and devotion to Mr. Welch and to the Society are based upon those principles of human freedom and dignity which the Society has espoused and championed. To the extent that Mr. Welch and the Society leadership have served that cause, they deserve our loyalty and efforts. But if, as it may happen, the top leadership has lied, cheated and beguiled, then we must abandon the scoundrels and re-address and re-dedicate ourselves to those sacred and honored principles upon which the John Birch Society was founded.

And if, as it may be, the charges are false and malicious, let it be openly stated, the accusers and their lies identified. And let us then return, our battle-scars healed, to the business and to the organization we have all dedicated ourselves to serving.

As a member of the Council of The John Birch Society, who wields considerably more influence with Mr. Welch than I, a mere member, I entreat you to discuss the contents of this letter and attachments with other Council members, to search out the truth and to advise Mr. Welch to respond to the membership in a frank and open manner. I'm convinced he will not do so without the urging of the Council. Thus is the reason for my addressing this letter to each member of the Council.

I believe that you owe this to the Society and to the cause that we have all given so much for so long. I would appreciate hearing your comments.

Yours for God and Country,

Robert E. Grant

Robert E. Grant
Chapter Leader, CXON
Chairman, St. Paul Area TRAIN Committee

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

— the MMM department

June 13, 1974

Dear Mr. Skeldon:

Thank you for returning your Monthly Message for May.

In response to your request, we must inform you that we do not issue financial reports to the membership as a matter of policy, although Mr. Welch has discussed some of our expenses in past Bulletins and financial appeals. The John Birch Society is chartered under the General Laws of Massachusetts as a non-profit educational organization. Our accounts are audited each year by a professional firm, and reports are filed with the Commonwealth according to law. Financial records are also made available to members of the COUNCIL and Executive Committee, who discuss them with Mr. Welch.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Get **US** out!

MMM for May, order _____

Sincerely,

William B. Guidry
contribution
William B. Guidry

December 17, 1970

Mr. Nord Davis, Jr.
Box 48
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Dear Nord:

What in heaven's name has gone wrong with you?

Some two or three years ago (and incidentally, on the strong recommendation of Dick Ober), we gave one issue of your Pardon me, but... an emphatic boost in the monthly bulletin of The John Birch Society.

This obviously brought you a sizable number of orders and requests, enabled you to establish direct contact with, apparently, thousands of our members, and gave your periodical a circulation and readership far beyond what it would otherwise have today. We were happy for your sake, and hoped that what you had to say would help the cause.

Instead, it was not too long before you were using all of this greatly increased circulation to try to sell our members what the Society has always considered a very pernicious theme. Frankly, Nord, we believe that the exhortation to "grab your guns and your groceries, boys, and take to the hills," shows a very poor understanding of how the Communists operate when they take over any country -- or while they are trying to do so.

We have had our efforts to expose and oppose the Conspiracy seriously damaged by this theme on two or three other occasions. And here was Nord Davis, of all people, advocating this same futile course, exactly contrary to the beliefs of the Society -- as we had made clear on many occasions -- to our members whom we had helped him to reach. And causing us considerable trouble, and slackening of effort, in many places by doing so. But we knew that the disturbance would all blow over in time, and decided simply to let it pass.

It also became obvious that a direct solicitation by you of contributions from our members, to support your publication and undoubtedly in time for other purposes, would be inevitable. And having been through this development, with three or four other anti-Communists whom we had tried to help --

some of whom, having built their momentum and "clientele" entirely on our support, had then emphatically told our members that they should contribute to these new efforts, even if it meant that they could no longer contribute to The John Birch Society -- we were certainly not happy about this prospect.

Then came the bookstore episode, including the "famous" conference which you did not attend, but which you reported on so emphatically -- and incorrectly -- many months later, as if you had. I'll not go into the details here, because it would take too much space and time. But your actions in connection with the whole affair were certainly -- and it would seem intentionally -- damaging to the interests of the Society, simply because you had been determined to have your way about how this American Opinion bookstore was to be run, regardless of our policies. I will add, however, that Richard Ober is one of the most devout fundamentalist Christians, and one of the most honorable men in every respect, that I know; and that it is incredible to any of us here for him ever to have made any such statement as you have attributed to him in a second or third-hand report on a conversation to which you were not a party.

Then came your candidacy for the United States Senate which, in my opinion, made you look extremely foolish. You were supposed to be running -- or so you said -- as a means of defeating Edward M. Kennedy; and I doubt very much if Kennedy ever even knew that you were in the race. Also, I am not sure that all of your contributors -- again including our members -- were at all happy about the way their money was ultimately used. And, since you were known to be a Bircher and to have the support of many Birch members, we were not happy to see the Society brought even indirectly into so prestige-lowering a fiasco. But again we decided to ignore the whole thing and let time cause it to be forgotten.

But for several months now, Nord, you seem to have been embarking on some kind of a feud with The John Birch Society, or seeking to glorify yourself by building up one. Besides castigating us in print, you have been putting various accusations and innuendoes in letters about there being "a serious problem" at The John Birch Society, because "Mr. Welch is isolated" by the staff, and "relies on Mr. Ober (or Mr. Hill) too much." With such comments as "Do not worry, the Communists know all about it," and with

disparaging remarks about our excellent Coordinator, Jim Todd, who is making splendid progress in that very New Hampshire territory.

So again I ask, Nord, what on earth is the matter with you, anyway? Do you want to help to win this fight, or merely to build up the views and the importance of Nord Davis. I do not know whether you have been acquiring delusions of grandeur or not. But you have certainly been kidding yourself with one delusion, which is that I have been isolated, and do not know what is going on. The fact is that I have kept very fully informed about everything you were saying and doing, that might in any way affect The John Birch Society, for well over a year. The further fact is that, about three months ago, becoming at the time quite disturbed over what you were doing and saying, I wrote a long letter to one of your friends, covering the whole course of your actions in much more detail, and much more critically, than I am doing here. And I am sure it would have convinced you of the nonsense of any idea that I had been "isolated."

It was my intention to mail this letter to your friend who had written me, and to make up duplicated copies to send other people who were reporting on what you had written them. And also, quite possibly, to publish this devastating letter in one of our monthly bulletins. It was Tom Hill who persuaded me not to mail it at all. And to let him, instead, prepare and send out, to individuals wherever required, a broad statement, setting forth our attitude towards the whole fuss you were creating in as general terms, and as little damaging to yourself, as possible. Which he began to do, in answer to letters we received.

For Tom Hill and Dick Ober and the others, knowing the incredible pressures on my time, do all they can to take both minor problems and burdensome correspondence off my shoulders, while keeping me fully informed as to the background of both. But you, instead of realizing how considerate we were trying to be by the form and phrasing of this memorandum, appear to have acquired such a bad case of a swelled head, and to have become so important in your own eyes, that you have even been smearing us over this very innocuous statement, and making a big issue over the fact that nobody whom you were stirring up to write us, repeating or quoting your nonsensical charges, was receiving an individually written letter, signed by myself.

So I have decided to write this letter directly to you, and then to send copies of it, when absolutely necessary, to those whom you instigate to

Mr. Nord Davis, Jr.

-4-

December 17, 1970

write us and to demand signed replies. This one is signed all right. I have personally written every word of it without even conferring with anybody else, because I have been well aware of all your silly antics. And I am prepared to go much further, with a lot more details, if it becomes necessary or advisable to do so. Which I hope it will not. For I hope you will now come down to earth, Nord, get back on the track, and help us in every way you can to make our educational program about the Conspiracy increasingly sound and effective.

We have no wish to be anything but friendly towards you or any other anti-Communist. But there is a limit to our patience. And we hope that, instead of pushing us beyond that limit, you will drop the whole mess you are making, and get back on the team.

Sincerely,

RW:mk

Robert Welch



P.O. BOX 1365 - THOUSAND OAKS, CALIF. 91360
G. EDWARD GRIFFIN - PRESIDENT

June 12, 1974

Mr. Charles Skeldon
5753 27th Avenue S
Minneapolis, Mn 55417

Dear Mr. Skeldon:

In reply to your recent letter, I will comment very briefly but as much to the point as possible.

First of all, let me point out that much of the information contained in your letter is what might be called a half-truth, or better yet, a near-truth. It can lead to erroneous conclusions if left standing as it is.

In an effort to clarify these matters, therefore, as briefly as I can, let me begin by acknowledging that Mr. Welch did contact me with a request to produce the film A VISIT TO THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. It was understood that the Society would promote the use of this film, if it were good, so that we could, hopefully, return our investment and possibly produce a profit. There were no guarantees of any kind, and I fully understood that there was a financial risk involved. At that time, however, we did not anticipate that the Society would produce a filmstrip along parallel lines. The filmstrip and the motion picture film were released at approximately the same time and, consequently, many potential users for the more expensive 16mm film preferred to take the less expensive 35mm filmstrip. The production of A VISIT TO THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY was a financial disappointment. Nevertheless, those of us who were involved with it feel that it served its purpose and that the Society was greatly benefitted by having two films available to its members.

With regard to the production of the OSHA CONTROVERSY, unfortunately there was a misunderstanding in the early planning stages. Personally, I was not aware that the Society intended to produce a filmstrip on that topic. If I had been, I never would have dreamed of producing a 16mm film because of the experience of the previously mentioned episode. Nevertheless, when I learned of the Society's intentions, I was already very deeply committed and involved in the production of the OSHA CONTROVERSY. I am quite sure, however, that the Society had intended to produce a filmstrip version all along and the fact that there was a duplicate effort was, undoubtedly, a result of my discussing the matter with other

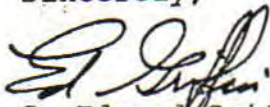
members of the staff rather than with Mr. Welch personally. The fact that this film, also, has not been profitable to us, it not nearly as important as the fact that it has helped the Society promote its program. After all, that is the primary reason that we produce these films--not to make a profit.

With regard to the biography of Robert Welch, it is also true that a large portion of it was already set in type when Mr. Welch read the manuscript for the first time. He was not pleased with the way in which it was put together and felt that it needed the touch of someone with a greater classical education--a point of view with which I totally agreed at the time. Consequently, it was turned over to Professor Root who spent several months reworking the manuscript. Mr. Welch, after reading the revised version, was still not quite satisfied with it and made a personal commitment to me to re-do it himself. At this point in time, he has told me that he expected to have the finished revised manuscript in my hands by the first of July. We are all looking forward to the release of this book inasmuch as it can be a most valuable tool in the fight for freedom.

With regard to the showing of the filmstrip CATAclysm FROM SPACE, it is true that Mr. Welch does not personally agree with the scientific theme presented in it. It is also true that he accepts Darwinism as a scientifically proven thesis. But that is not the reason why the showing of this film has not been endorsed by the Society or its staff. It was Mr. Welch's decision with which I agree--that an item of this nature, which sometimes splits people needlessly on religious or philosophical themes, should not be brought officially into the Society's work because we cannot afford to argue amongst ourselves on these secondary issues.

I hope that my answers, brief as they may be, will help clear up the controversy. Please be assured that I continue to be a member in good standing of the John Birch Society and respect Robert Welch as one of the greatest Americans of all time.

Sincerely,



G. Edward Griffin

GEG:ml

cc: John DeFriend, Prior Lake, Mn.

ROBERT WELCH

Belmont, Massachusetts 02178 Monday morning, October 13, 1975

Mrs. Nicholas J. Bové
148 Suburban Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Dear Mrs. Bové:

Enclosed are copies of the two mailing pieces that combine to make one message, which I was working on since putting the October Bulletin to bed. They constituted the reason why I had to delay my letter to you for about a week. So I thought that both you and Nick might like to read them.

Those items were finished by me on Friday, printed and folded that night and early Saturday morning, and mailed from this office on Saturday. Consequently I was able to start my letter to you Friday night, exactly as indicated. It was to be a fairly long and courteous letter, in a final attempt to clear up a number of quite obvious misunderstandings. I began it calmly, therefore, and even leisurely, with the following paragraphs, up to Section II below.

There is no question but that I have many faults. For one thing I like a cocktail or two before dinner. And while as a rule I never drink at any other time, there are exceptions to that habit. On those occasions when, before a speech, I no longer have a drink nor enjoy a dinner, I especially like to relax late at night with a couple of Manhattans and some food, after the speech and all of my subsequent duties are over.

Also, when I was twenty-five years old, and had never smoked even one cigarette in my life, I bought a box of Robert Burns cigars and deliberately set out to learn to like them. My success at that task was remarkable! For exactly fifty years now I have been smoking from ten to twenty cigars a day, continuously except for two periods, of twelve months and ~~then~~ nine months respectively, about ten years apart. That was when I stopped smoking entirely in order to be able, without feeling the addiction, to look objectively at the original question of whether or not I wanted to smoke at all. During the last stretch I made up my mind that I would go on smoking for the rest of my days. (And nights!)

Beyond any doubt, if I were going to see a priest, I could think up other trespasses which I should confess. But there is one sin that I have never committed even once for just about thirty years. And that is, telling a falsehood

October 13, 1975

to anybody about anything. As a young man I certainly had a proper respect for the truth; but that respect did not constitute a rigidly binding compulsion with regard to every detail of my life, always and under all conditions. In 1945 - 46, however, as I began to study more closely what was happening in the world, and to make speeches about it, I became convinced that if everybody would make up his mind simply to tell the truth, on all occasions, then half of all the world's troubles would disappear within six months.

I realized that no such miracle was to be expected. But I also realized that it was incumbent on me in my small way to set an example in the course that I wanted others to follow -- and which of course many others did follow -- by living up to all of its sometimes awkward requirements myself. Which I have done faithfully ever since, not only in all matters of importance but even in situations where the "little white lies" of politeness or convenience might be considered acceptable. In those thirty years I have not even so much as told a girl that she had on a pretty dress if I did not think it was; nor a hostess that her roast beef was delicious if it did not appeal to me; nor a friend that he had done an excellent job in any connection where this did not seem to me to be a fact.

This is why, on the morning of Monday, June 16, when I found Nick's extremely vitriolic letter on my desk, the only part of it that made me mad was the accusation that I had lied to him about being willing to talk to Tim Heinan. For of course none of even his other accusations, which seemed to me to be absurd, were so far from the truth. The facts behind this childish charge went back to that night early in April when Nick, without any warning or any slightest interest in how many urgent pressures there might be on my time, had burst into my office without any prior notice, imperially closed the door, and proceeded to tell me what a rotten stinker I was in the way I was running the Society, or allowing Tom Hill and Buck Mann to run it for me.

It is a great deal harder for me now, than when I was Nick's age, to force myself to go ahead and work all night regardless of how tired I may be. So I was acutely conscious of the time going by in which I badly needed to be either sleeping or working, because of the jobs that I had to have completed by noon of the next day. But finding that there was not going to be any other way to terminate or postpone the interview, I undertook to straighten out Nick's thinking and misunderstanding about several matters. Also, I was quite happy to feel when the conference finally broke up, and to find from Nick's attention to his own job and his greatly improved general attitude the next day, that I had apparently been successful.

But none of that experience is sufficiently relevant to be worth recounting here. And there was already a fly in the ointment which did become very rele-

vant indeed. For just as Nick had been leaving my office at the end of our long conversation, he turned at the door and asked if I would be willing to talk with Tim Heinan. This surprised me greatly, for two reasons. First was that, less than an hour before, I thought I had persuaded Nick to stop acting as a cat'spaw for Heinan, about whose unsatisfactory record with us Nick knew nothing at all. The second was, that Nick should think there was the slightest need for his intercession in order to get me to hear anything Heinan had to say!

The door to my office is almost always wide open. Nobody on our payroll has ever had any difficulty about getting into a conversation with me. If somebody on our staff had something serious that he or she wanted to talk to me about, that might take some time, the usual custom was to telephone my secretary, Mrs. Sproul, and say so. Mrs. Sproul would already know the condition of my always crowded schedule, or would come in to ask me about it, and would then reply to the telephone inquiry as follows: "OK, Sam, come on over"; or "You had better make it tomorrow afternoon, Mary, if the matter can wait that long"; or with some similar answer depending on the circumstances. And it happened that I wanted to talk to Tim myself, anyway, about the trouble he was still causing us by those wild and sensational statements to the people who gathered around him after one of his speeches was over.

So I answered quite truthfully that of course I would be glad to talk with Tim Heinan, and at long last got back to my work as Nick left. I had been up against a very serious problem, anyway, as to how I was going to meet an urgent deadline by the next noon on what I was doing. With at least two hours and considerable energy I had now lost, the problem was still more difficult. But I plunged into the task as intently as I could, and stayed with it as long as I could, right there in my office. Then I took it home with me for a couple of hours of more work at the desk in my basement, before allowing myself between three and four hours sleep. Then, after a bath, plus some canned grapefruit juice and a roll, I showed up again at my office, even before any of the girls arrived, feeling quite encouraged and hopeful about still getting my job finished on time.

Before I could even get seated at the desk in my office, however, Buck Mann came in to tell me that Tim Heinan was down in Buck's office, waiting to see me, and had been for some time. I asked: "For heaven's sake, why?" Buck replied: "That's what I wanted to know, and he said it was because you had sent for him!" Of course this meant that Nick, not satisfied with having forced me to spend two hours or more purely on his own emotional turmoil, at a time chosen by himself without the slightest regard for my schedule --

even after I had tried to tell him how crowded I was -- Nick had, with his usual inexorable impetuosity, got in touch with Tim Heinan sometime during the night or very early that morning, and urged Tim to take advantage at once of Nick's intercession on his behalf. Why Tim thought that he needed any such intercession was beyond me, and his urge to talk with me suggested that there must be something on his conscience that I knew nothing about. Because exaggerating the willingness I had expressed the night before, to talk with him sometime soon, into the statement that I "had sent for him," was far more typical of Tim than of Nick at that time.

At any rate, I passed the word back quickly through Buck Mann that I most assuredly had not "sent for him," and was too busy that morning to add anything else to my schedule. But that I certainly would be glad to talk with him as soon as he could catch me under less terrific pressure. Why nothing further came of the matter I have no idea; except that with reports coming in from the field, some of them addressed to me personally by executives of another good patriotic organization, showing the trouble Tim was again causing us by his love for sensationalism, and with myself too busy even to answer those letters, I lost all interest in again butting into Tim Heinan's situation, especially on my own initiative. So I left the whole matter of Tim Heinan's tenure of a job with our Speakers Bureau entirely up to the people who had ultimate authority over that Speakers Bureau, meaning Buck Mann and then Tom Hill.

But I was still delighted to learn that they had decided to overlook this one further example of his trouble-making tendency. Because it seemed to me to indicate an expectation on their part of being able finally to straighten him out, for the sake of holding onto a speaker who could be both appealing and convincing if he would only stay within the bounds of the fact and of justified opinion which was clearly stated as such -- as had been emphatically shown during a recent speaking tour in Georgia, where he had been able to obtain some quite favorable press treatment even after expounding well some of our very strong positions. This suited me fine, especially since -- despite all of his faults that I then knew about -- I still regarded Tim Heinan as a friend. And with Nick showing more sense about his own job, and about his relationship to those around him, than ever before, as well as far less apparent tendency to feel responsible for running the whole John Birch Society, we all began to have high hopes that our problems with these two "geniuses" were fading away.

In which expectation, unfortunately, we were all entirely wrong. For on Friday, June 13, Tom Hill came to the conclusion that we simply had to drop Tim Heinan; for reasons stated in my printed letter of December 2 to the Executive Committee, so I shall not repeat them here. On Sunday, June 15,

Nick literally went berserk over matters that he knew absolutely nothing about, and took every precaution he could to make sure that nobody spoiled his pose and excitement by having a chance to tell him the truth. Without any checking with anybody except the man whom he was "defending" by such extraordinary measures, he unleashed an attack on the Society, and on the very people (including myself) who had played the leading roles for more than fifteen years in building it up -- despite everything both the Insiders and various coattail riders could do to hurt us -- to its present position of very considerable influence and tremendous educational effectiveness on behalf of the Americanist cause.

And so, finally, on Tuesday, June 17, I heard directly from Tim Heinan, even though it was by telephone. He called me up in a most friendly mood (according to all appearances) and we talked for half an hour. He wanted me to know, first, that despite being dropped from our Speakers Bureau, he was still a very dedicated member of The John Birch Society and intended to remain one. In fact, since whatever new job he now got would undoubtedly keep him basically here at home throughout the year, one of his first projects was going to be to form a new chapter of the Society, in his community, with himself as Chapter Leader. I told him that sounded good.

Also, and equally important, he wanted me to realize that he had nothing to do with Nick Bové's letter, had not seen it until just a little while before on that Tuesday afternoon, and did not approve of the letter in any respect or want to be blamed for it in any way. I asked him how he now happened to have a copy of the letter, and he replied that somebody in our offices had sent him a copy. Which accounted for him calling almost as soon as he received it and was shocked by it. He claimed to have no idea of where Nick was then, but seemed to think that our trying to find him and straighten out his misunderstanding was a good idea. In fact Tim carried this whole attitude so far that a few days later, after Alan Stang and Jack McManus had been unable to get in touch with Nick and deliver my friendly letter to him, Alan persuaded Tim to come into our offices (!) and write and sign a short letter of his own. As I remember it now, this letter supported the same theme that Tim had enunciated to me in his telephone call. Which letter I am sure Alan still has today, because by that time none of the rest of us believed that this disclaimer could be used for any advantage to anybody.

A rather strange aspect of the telephone conversation was that Tim never brought up at all the reason why he had been fired, nor offered any rebuttal to it. I did ask him what he was going to do now, and he said he expected to get a job as a salesman. I told him that I thought he ought to be able to make a good salesman, if he would work at it in the right way. Then, because I al-

ways have a softhearted sympathy for anybody whose faults have got them into trouble -- due to my ever-present consciousness of so many shortcomings of my own -- I told him that I would be glad to help him to get any job which I thought he could handle if I could do so without telling anything but the truth. He thanked me, and we hung on very friendly terms.

Of course my reaction and responses on Tuesday afternoon were based on my normal trait of putting Tim in the most favorable light permitted by all that I personally knew about him up to that time. I did not believe his pretension to innocence about his intercepting and pilfering somebody else's mail, and never did understand how Nick could allow himself to become "particeps criminis" in so ungentlemanly an act. But I put that episode down to a difference in sense of values. And besides it had all taken place several months before. Also, while the sensational nonsense which Tim was whispering to members of our field staff in the weeks before our Chicago Dinner was pretty vicious stuff, so far it had not actually harmed anybody but Tim himself. And my optimism, about Tim having learned a lesson, got the better of my judgment, because I have had the happy experience two or three times in my life of emulating the Bishop in the early pages of Les Miserables and seeing it produce very desirable results.

Tom Hill was however, as usual, far more perceptive and better informed about Mr. Heinan than I had had any opportunity to become. He decided soon, and correctly, that we no longer wanted Mr. Heinan as a member of the Society. By this time we knew that he had lied to me and to others about having nothing to do with Nick's original letter. We had even learned about Nick's three-hour long-distance conversation with him over Andy Lane's telephone. And, as I recall it now, Nick's seventeen-page printed letter of some two weeks later even confirmed that he had shown his first letter to Tim and had it approved before duplicating it for distribution. But none of that amounts to anything compared with some of what we learned about Tim's character and habits in the course of that investigation which Nick insisted on so emphatically, and which I made quite thoroughly about everybody involved.

My softheartedness in such matters, and my sense of restraint, will still not let me put any of that information in writing here or anywhere else, unless I am obliged to do so. But I can assure you that it made a sardonic joke out of Tim Heinan's crying (as reported by Nick) over the sadness of having discovered that there had been an incident of amorous misbehavior by one man on the office staff of The John Birch Society -- although he was the only man who had caused us any trouble of that kind in many years. And it makes even more of a sickening tragedy out of the fact that Nick made himself such an impetuous ^{tool} of this much to be pitied but hypocritical actor, despite all of my warning to

Nick not to do so.

* * *

II

I have gone at some length into the above matters, including a small amount of personal history and sentiment, primarily to show you why the rest of this letter will not be so long as, nor at all the kind of, letter I originally intended to write you. For just as I was getting into it there came to me a copy of Nick's letter of October 7 to Elaine Bechtel, of which he has probably sent copies to all members of our COUNCIL. I think it best, therefore, to let you know two things: The first is how I feel about being called a liar; and the second is that I am running out of patience.

Let me call your attention to just one short paragraph in Nick's long letter to Elaine. It reads as follows.

"Robert Welch should be thankful that I do not hold him fully responsible for his letter of September 2. Not all the writing was his -- it was a group action encompassing the efforts of McManus, Hill, Mann, and a Moron -- I mean Mor-mon -- that just happens to be Handy. After careful examination we have found no less than seventy lies in its four short pages -- lies which [sic] I can assure you they will all be held accountable."

Perhaps I should consider myself fortunate that this twenty-three years old arbiter and protector of all morality condescends so graciously to let me share with others the responsibility to him for my evil deeds. But unfortunately I cannot accept the escape maneuver which he offers me. It seems literally impossible, I know, that he could ever be wrong about anything. But you should tell Nick that, with my own little fountain pen, I personally wrote every word of the letter to which he refers, without even a minute of consultation with anybody. So he ought to let the very able and honorable men, whom he names so contemptuously, completely off his hook in this instance and put all of the blame on me. Next, Nick does not say who the "we" are that have found no less than seventy "lies" in my "four short pages," nor does he spell out a single one of the lies. But give him this "correction, please," anyway. A lie is a conscious or intentional attempt to deceive. There were none in that letter, I assure you, and there never is in anything that I write or say. And for the omission of a qualification, which I did not yet know about, in one description (having nothing to do with Nick), I am very sorry. For even when writing in haste I try hard to keep all minor or passing comments as accurate as I possibly can.

It would be very easy indeed to answer every criticism in Nick's letter, and to point out why some of them do not make any sense at all, except for the time required to do so, and then to keep on doing the same thing indefinitely. Despite the incredible amount of work which needs to be done, to expose and op-

pose the Conspiracy, you and Nick seem to be devoting your lives to a vendetta against The John Birch Society and myself. While I have to devote all of mine that I possibly can to the needs and work and effectiveness of this organization. I could argue with Nick -- convincingly, I believe, even to him -- over every point that he raises. And by giving him the benefit of more than fifty years of occasional experience with human frailties, plus the whole background in this particular case, I believe I could show that our method of handling the Chip Wood affair was not only the most humane and Christian for the people involved, but also the best in the long run for both the morals and the morale of the Society. His certainty that, as a young man just out of college, he knew more about all the possible ramifications in such a situation than far older men, was on a par with his unwillingness to be guided by our far better knowledge of Tim Heinan's confusing character.

But I would be utterly unfaithful to the responsibilities of my own job if I should undertake to bring Nick up to a satisfactory level of maturity in thinking about any of the problems of human life. For his letter to Elaine Bechtel makes me realize far more than ever before that he is remarkable for having no understanding of how little he understands. It seems to me that he has been swept even further off balance by the heady excitement of showing how much damage he personally, with your help, can do to The John Birch Society and me; and how important he can thereby make himself, no matter how much harm he does to the lives and careers of entirely innocent people in the process. And it is not a worthy ambition.

Nick is still trying to maintain the pretense, especially to himself, of being impelled in his present course by a high idealism. Which, I like to believe, in the very beginning of this whole episode, was at least a part of the motivating force behind his quixotic actions. But by the time of his impetuous boasting that he had just begun to fight, that noble though utterly misguided sentiment was already being buried under the thrill he felt on casting himself in the beloved role of a David fighting some Goliath. Until, by the time he wrote this recent letter to Elaine Bechtel, he was letting himself become, far more than in the past, a pompous, vain, overbearing, condescending, patronizing "sophomore," with a paranoid imagination, whom it would be very easy to make appear ridiculous in the eyes of almost everybody who had ever heard his name before.

In the meantime I had not begun to fight at all. I had other work to do and other inclinations. Since his whole destructive campaign began on June 16 I have issued only one statement about it. That was the printed letter, dated September 2, which I wrote specifically to be able to read it at the COUNCIL Meeting in New York. It was purely defensive in nature. Contrary to what Nick may say, or even think, I dealt with his part in making such a statement necessary,

October 13, 1975

just as gingerly and with as much consideration for his feelings, as I possibly could under all of the circumstances that he had created. And I hoped that this comparatively short explanation of what the fuss was all about would cause the artificially generated storm to start fading away.

But if absolutely necessary (which I hope it will not be) I can fight, too. Goodness knows Nick -- and many of his former friends, neighbors, girl friends in two states, and one-time associates in college and church and job, all on their own initiative -- have provided me with enough ammunition. (He seems to have had an incredible knack for making enemies, mostly through his pose of superiority and holier-than-thou attitude, for many years.) And I do not feel that I can simply sit still and permit these inordinately vicious diatribes to be circulated any longer. So we are suggesting that you call it off, and let all the noisy excitement that Nick loves disappear; that he go to work seriously at some job for which he is at present really suited, put his mind and his abilities into doing that job well, and grow up from a bumptious self-anointed prodigy into a level-headed and mature young man, still or again endowed inside with romantically idealistic motives, but of great practical ability and with even greater promise for the future.

We understand that Nick has now started in on the writing of a book to be called Inside The John Birch Society. For any benefit that he might be willing to derive from our experience and our advice, let me point out that there have already been published some dozen books of that nature. The first one that we know about was by a reporter for a New York newspaper, by the name of Grove, I believe. And, strange to say, that particular book bore exactly that same title: Inside The John Birch Society. Despite our reluctance to go into court about anything, we brought a lawsuit against the publisher of that book -- a very sizable firm, incidentally, from whom as it so happens we have been buying many thousands of other books quite regularly ever since. But the direct result of our lawsuit was that they had to destroy a huge quantity of Inside The John Birch Society, pay all the costs of the suit, and pay us damages in cash for those they had sold; while the author of the book suffered such a setback in his reputation and standing that -- so far as we know -- he has never even been heard of in the journalistic field again.

The next example that we clearly and specifically remember -- although we are sure there were several in between -- was a book called Birching Was My Business. It was written by a young man, whose name I have now forgotten -- despite a later reminder which I shall come to in a minute -- who had served on our staff for a year or more as a Coordinator in Florida. Although also published by a well known house, this book proved to be so obvious a manifestation, by a disgruntled former employee, of unjustified disloyalty to his former em-

Mrs. Nicholas J. Bové

-10-

October 13, 1975

ployer, that it was a complete flop. We do not know what the young man did to earn his bread for the next several years. But we do know that about twelve months ago, with ardent claims of both repentance and currently better understanding, he applied to us in a letter for employment by the Society as a writer in some capacity.

Please do not think, however, that all of these literary attacks have been by relatively unknown writers. Such famous cartoonists and television stars as Walt Kelly (the creator of Pogo) and Ed Sullivan both turned out malignant little volumes against The John Birch Society, to such little avail that most of the public never even heard of these polemic "masterpieces." And we have lost all count of how many whole volumes and part volumes, or how many films and filmstrips, Messrs. Forster and Epstein of the Anti-Defamation League have produced in order to try to destroy or damage so effective an anti-Communist organization as The John Birch Society. Which caused extreme discomfort to hundreds of very courageous and patriotic Jewish members of the Society, and also helped to demonstrate how loyally pro-Communist was the Anti-Defamation League. But neither of these effects are goals which I believe would have any appeal to Nick or yourself. Nor does the whole literary project that Nick now has in mind seem to us, from the very extensive record of past endeavors, seem to offer any happy prospect of either fame or fortune.

Let's glance next, Mrs. Bové, at your own present occupation, as reliably reported to me, of writing a literary diatribe against us for syndication or even free distribution among metropolitan newspapers all over the country. It is to be about such an able and idealistic young man as your son, Nick, being taken into the employment of The John Birch Society, and thus in a few months time despoiled of all his virtues. I am confident that the prospects of any ultimate results which would appeal to you are about the same as for the book Nick plans to write. But I shall not go into the reasons why, partly because I have already spent too much time on this whole project, and partly because any such exposition should be utterly unnecessary if you really know your son. Some of his preposterous characteristics could be used -- with documentation and numerous affidavits under oath -- for a refutation that would be so laughably but realistically convincing as to ensure wide readership.

Not that I have any desire to employ such tactics, even in defense. Nor am I issuing any kind of threat or ultimatum. For I do not even know what course I should pursue, out of the six or seven that are available to us, if the continued actions of Nick and yourself compel me to prove that I too can fight, aggressively, when circumstances require it. Let's hope that they will not; and that the whole disturbance Nick has produced can be allowed to pass away and be forgotten, while we are still willing -- though now just barely willing -- to let it do so.

Mrs. Nicholas J. Bové

-11-

October 13, 1975

But one thing, Mrs. Bové, out of two alternatives, seems absolutely certain if Nick stays on his present course, with or without your encouragement. (a) The John Birch Society fails to become strong enough in time to provide the decisive difference that would stop the Communists and their bosses from taking over our country. In which case Nick will certainly be widely blamed, probably far more than he deserves, for our tragic failure. Or (b), we do grow strong enough to play a major role in routing the Conspiracy, and go on to become a powerful new force in history for the building of a better world. For which prospect Nick may presently have established a positive assurance that he will be remembered in that history as the Benedict Arnold of our cause.

This letter is my last best effort, with all of the good will and patience that I have left in me for the purpose, to see that Nick does not have to face either prospect. And to arrange amicably that the Society no longer has to stand for his unceasing stream of malicious abuse. But we do mean what we say. So I hope that you and Nick will let me know, Mrs. Bové, whether you agree with our suggestion, before we feel obliged to take any further steps.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

RW:cm

Robert Welch

P.S. The extra copy is for Nick. R.W.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont, Massachusetts 02173

October 29, 1970

To Whom It May Concern:

Your inquiry, concerning the September, 1970 issue of "off-the-cuff", has been received. We are hopeful that the information set forth in this memorandum will clarify for you the position of the Society in relation to comments made in that newsletter published by Lord Davis, Jr.

We were as disturbed as anyone else after reading those comments concerning the Society and the Society's Coordinator and Major Coordinator for New England. Still, however, we would not be going to the trouble of setting the record straight, except for the fact that we have, on at least two occasions in the past, introduced Mr. Davis and his activities to our entire membership. In 1966, we made clear in our July Bulletin that Mr. Davis surely had the courage of his convictions in taking the stand that he did to oppose the trade conducted with Communist countries by IBM. In our May, 1968 Bulletin, we recommended to our membership an article Mr. Davis wrote and which was entitled "Wood, Hay and Stubble". At that time we provided our members with his address and we are confident that as a result, the circulation of his periodical was increased significantly.

Frankly, then, we are just a little perturbed to see Mr. Davis presenting to his readers his views and opinions about an incident which occurred in early December, 1969 -- almost one year ago. We are disturbed primarily because at that time, and subsequently, and at his request and on a person-to-person basis, we have explained the facts about this library situation to him.

As he makes clear himself, he was not present at the meeting with our Coordinator, Major Coordinator, and the Manager of the Bookstore. In fact, and again as he has made clear, he was out of town. For the record, then, we will recap what took place simply because you have asked us to do so or have indicated concern over what you have read in "off-the-cuff".

Mr. Davis mentions that in 1967, "with the help of several patriots, I opened the largest American Opinion library in New England at the time". Certainly Mr. Davis was very helpful in developing the

plans for the library. Yet we think it is quite important, and especially in light of subsequent events, to make clear that one person was almost totally responsible for the financial backing of the library at the time it was founded and throughout its entire operation.

And that financial backing included the small salary provided the Manager of the outlet. Without the generous financial support of this individual, it is quite correct to say that there would have been no library at all. It was concern expressed by this individual and in relation to the small volume of business transacted monthly by the store, which was responsible in part for our Staff members looking more closely at the picture. (We need emphasize at this point of our discussion that this concern by the contributor was expressed only after considerable expenditure of funds and over quite a lengthy period of time.)

We had received several complaints from good members of the Society who were also concerned about the lack of progress of the outlet and who felt that this was due in part to the fact that the store had become not only a center for religious education, but also, a distribution point for certain materials with which they wanted nothing to do with nor with which the Society wanted any connection whatsoever. The situation had indeed reached a point where a number of our members would not patronize the outlet. This was also understandable in light of the fact that in a few instances, their offers of support in the past had been outrightly refused and because their religious convictions were different than those of the very outspoken Manager.

It was on December 3, 1969, when our Coordinator and Major Coordinator met with the Manager. The purpose of their visit was to discuss the declining business of the store and those complaints referred to above. The Manager agreed that the business had declined badly and blamed it all on the members of the Society who were failing to use the outlet. When Mr. Ober, our Major Coordinator, mentioned that he had received complaints about the Manager's usage (in part) of the outlet for the purpose of promoting his religious views with customers, the Manager denied any responsibility and suggested that there was a conspiracy against him.

Let us take a moment here to explain that the Society has within its ranks, members from all walks of life and with different backgrounds and religious convictions. In The Blue Book of the Society Mr. Welch stated the following: "Far from founding a religion, we are merely urging Protestants, Catholics, Jews or Moslems to be better Christians, better Jews, or better Moslems, in accordance with the deepest and most humanitarian promptings of their own religious beliefs. And we are simply trying to draw a circle of faith in God's power and purpose, which is broad and inclusive enough to take each man's specific faith into that circle without violation."

It just so happens that our Major Coordinator, Mr. Ober, is himself a very devout fundamentalist Christian and the person, incidentally, who was responsible for suggesting to Mr. Welch that he mention in the Bulletin of the Society that article by Mr. Davis entitled, "Wood, Hay and Stubble". The ridiculousness of the charge that Mr. Ober or Mr. Todd stated that "so long as we held an American Opinion franchise, he (manager) would not be permitted to talk about Christ" in the store, is incredible in every way. And we certainly have taken the time to explain this fact to Mr. Davis, who again, was not present at the meeting.

For the record, our Coordinator and/or our Major Coordinator, both of whom have been associated with the Society for many years, and who understand Society policy as well as anyone on our staff, did not make the statement attributed to them by Mr. Davis in his most recent newsletter. And we would suggest to him, as sincerely as we know how, that he check his facts more thoroughly in the future. To say what he has said in print, almost a full year after the incident, does nothing to help strengthen the Americanist movement.

As to the closing of the library, Mr. Davis has neglected to inform his readers of the fact that the store had been doing poorly and that even the Manager agreed to this. And as to the Society "grinding to a halt" because of the closing of the store, it is quite obvious, once again, that Mr. Davis is not familiar with the activities and the growth of the Society over the last year.

We do not understand what prompted Mr. Davis' comments at this time. We certainly do not intend to pursue this matter other than to issue this memorandum to those members of the Society who might inquire as a result of reading the remarks by him.

Sincerely,

The Home Office